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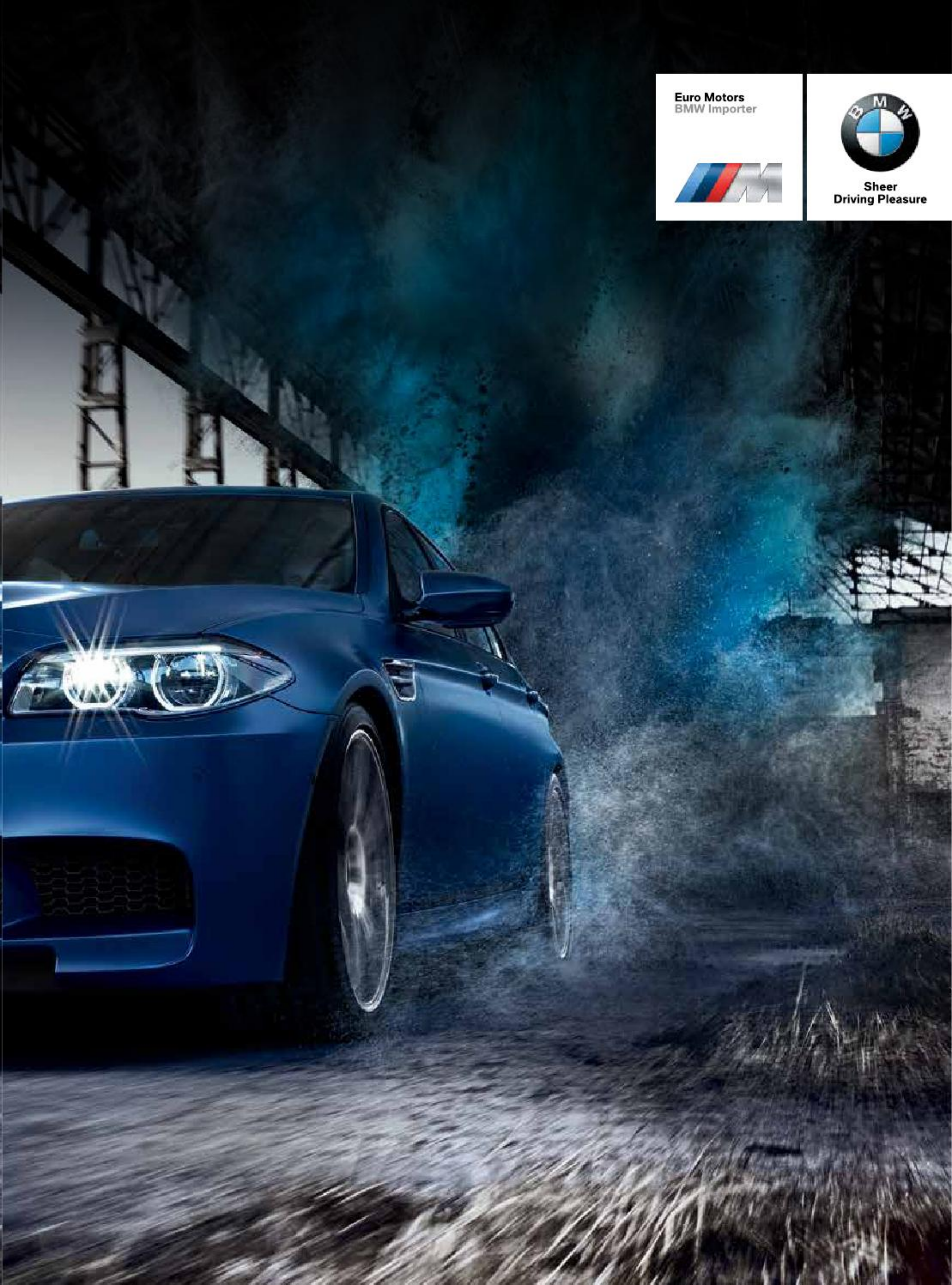


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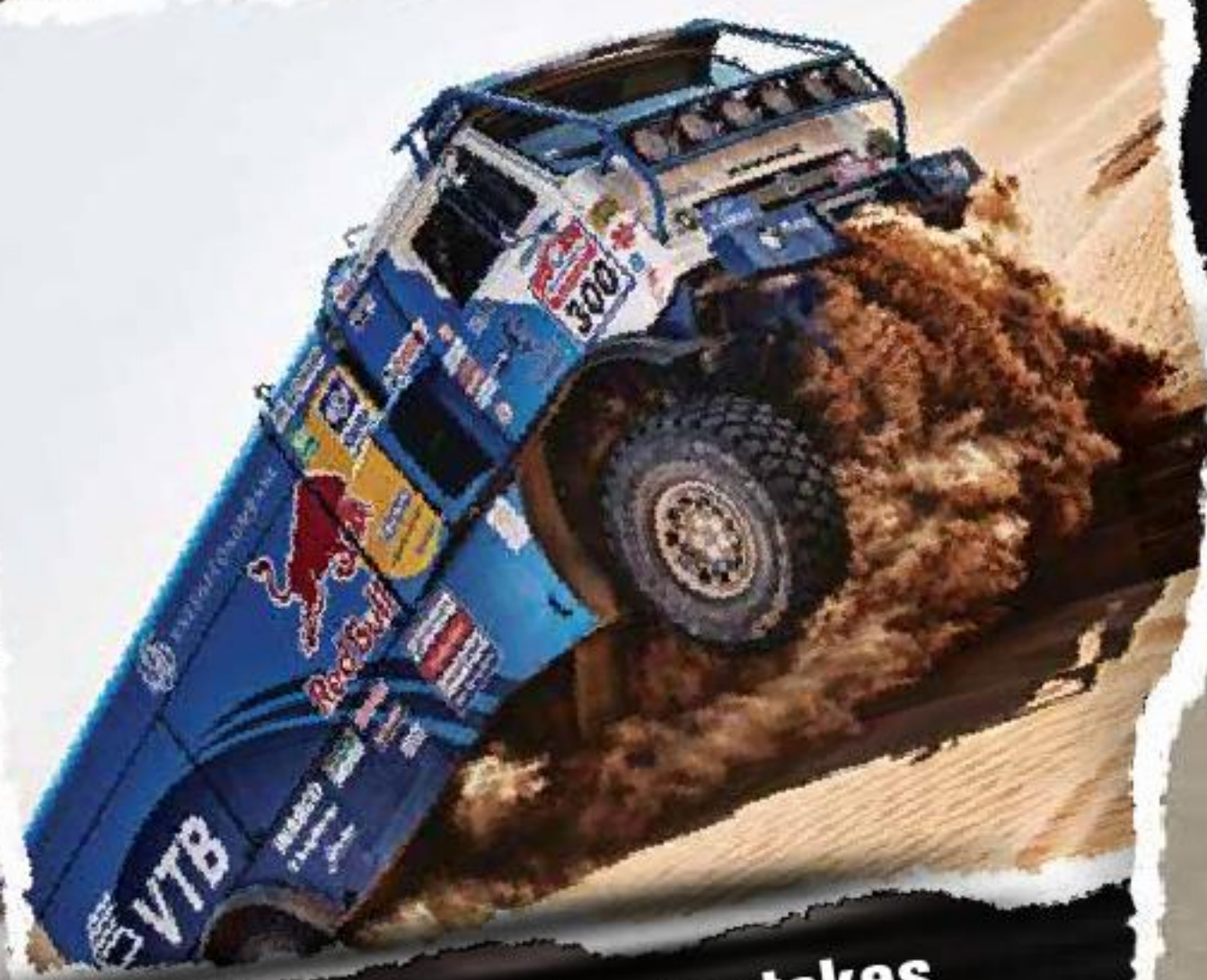


“ We really put the Nissan 370Z's through their paces on circuit at GT Academy in Abu Dhabi.

We previously had some cooling issues on circuit in the United Kingdom, we needed something to help run the cars in the 40°C heat, so Evans waterless coolant was the only real solution.

The cars ran faultlessly over the two weeks we spent at the Yas Marina Circuit and will be running Evans in the cars from now on, both in the UK and abroad.

Martyn Smith - Operations Director
GT Academy,



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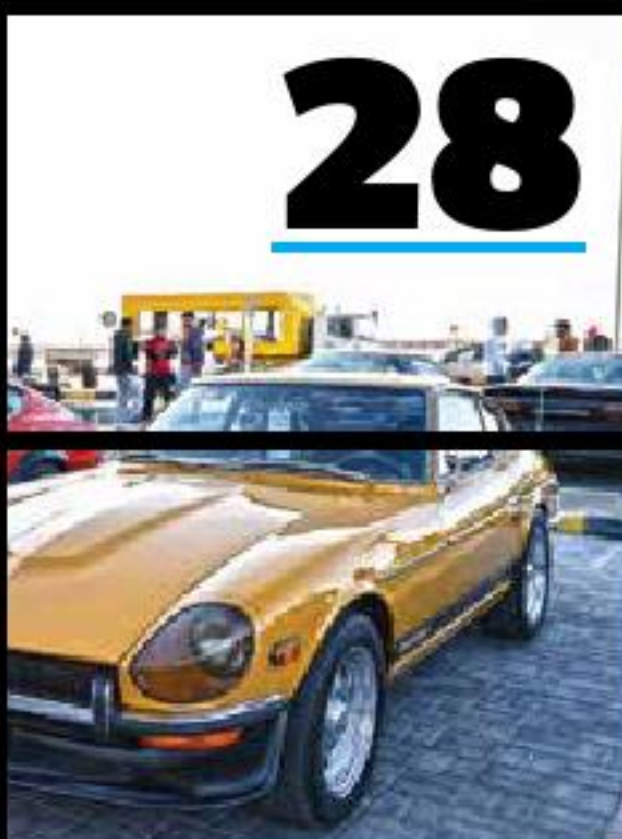
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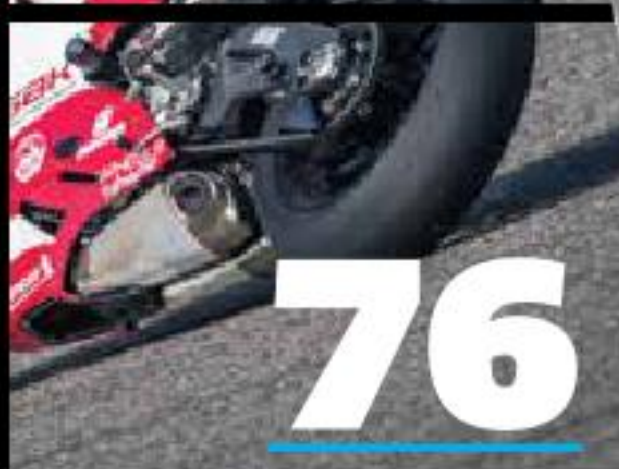
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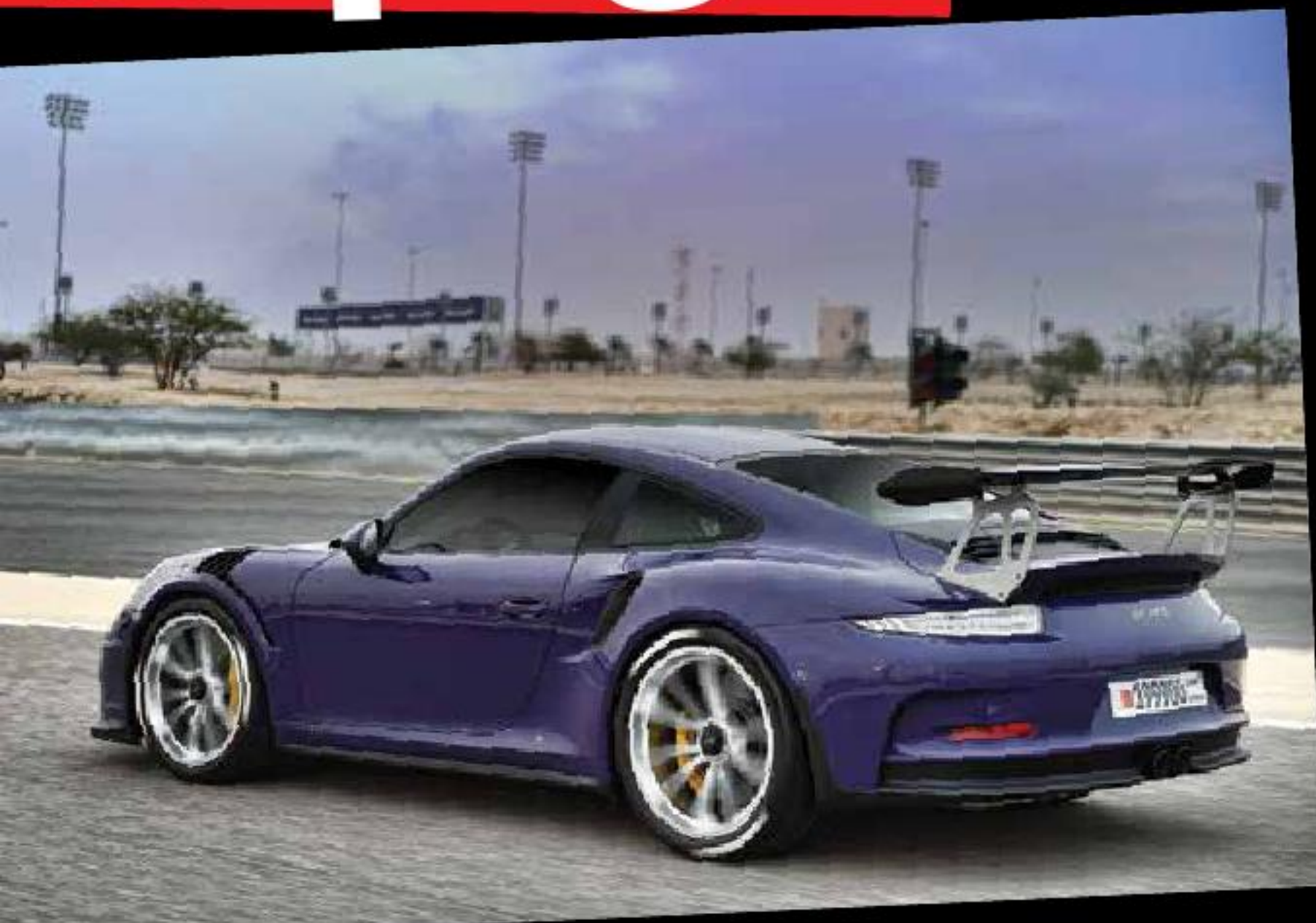


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What a way to start the year! It seems like this is fast becoming my signature opening statement at the beginning of every New Year – but there's good reason for it! For one, there are always new automotive events being added to the calendar, and as for the existing ones – they are taken to new heights and new records.

Take the Ekanoo Racing Team's colossal 5-second Import world record that they set at the BIC's drag strip. And the newly introduced, super-exciting Bahrain Superbike Championship series that kicked off as well. In tandem with all this, we've had the usual car shows courtesy of American Eagles and lots of action both on track – and on the street.

It's not all good news however, because the one thing that us petrol heads (and the entire motoring public for that matter) have taken for granted has bit back with some pent-up vengeance; yes, I'm talking about the wonderful new petrol prices that we are all paying for now – 160 Fils per liter for the red stuff and 125 for the gold (or yellow if that's a more apt description). I'm pretty certain that that's a pretty big chunk of change to swallow for many. Here's hoping that this doesn't diminish the Kingdom's gear-head spirit that has lived on strong through various economic challenges over the years. As someone once said – "You Can't Ride the Tiger Forever."

Elsewhere, we've managed to nab what could possibly be one of the last naturally aspirated hard-core 911s – the GT3RS. If you fancy driving a racecar on the street – you simply can't do better than this super Porsche. Oh, and as you might have noticed, we also have some added eye-candy for you guys in the form of a female posing next to said Porsche. Hate mail can be sent to Moe Kayani.

I sure hope you enjoy this issue and as always – Car Talk? Hit me up!

Deputy Editor
SANGEETH MURALEEDHARAN

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NEWS

LATEST GOSSIP FROM THE MOTORING INDUSTRY



F-SPORT FASCINATION

Lexus Debuts The Stomping New GS F Sport Sedan

When we tested the new G a while ago, we liked it so much that we only hoped if Lexus would shoe-horn a V8 into the nose, then this would be a potent super sedan. And Lexus has gone and done just that!

Launched mid-last month (January 2016) at a ceremony held at the Lexus showroom in Sitra, the GS F is the Lexus that will take on the likes of the BMW M5 and the Mercedes E63.

Power comes from a 5.0 liter V8 engine that puts out 471 horses to the rear wheels via an 8-speed "Sport Direct Shift" (SPDS) automatic transmission. The engine also utilizes an

evolution of the Variable Valve Timing system known as Variable Valve Timing-intelligent Electric motor (VVT-iE). The GS F also comes with drive select modes that include Normal, Eco, Sport S, and if that isn't hard core enough for you – a Sport S+ mode for absolute insanity as well.

Brembo supplies the brakes and the suspension has trick dampers that allow you to select from Standard, Slalom or Track modes.

All this sounds incredibly promising to say the least and we're hoping this will reignite the super sedan wars both on track and on the street.



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WRAITH 'INSPIRED BY MUSIC' ARRIVES IN BAHRAIN

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars has contributed to the myth and legend of the contemporary music scene since the birth of Rock & Roll. Over half a century later, this long-standing love affair lives on, with some of the world's most celebrated artists choosing the marque as the ultimate affirmation

of their success. In this spirit, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is delighted to announce the arrival of the Wraith 'Inspired by Music' in Bahrain through Euro Motors, the sole authorised dealers of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars in the Kingdom. Since the launch of Wraith in 2013, customers have been able to commission their Rolls-Royce Wraith

with Bespoke Audio; the most exhaustively designed sound system in automotive history. Like every element of a Rolls-Royce motor car, its construction blends the finest components with the skill of the most eminent experts in their field. Now, with Wraith 'Inspired by Music', these characteristics, and the precious materials used in the Bespoke Audio system, are brought very much to the fore, creating 'the most exclusive music venue' that delivers an unrivalled aural experience.



EXCLUSIVE OFFERS ON JAGUAR XF

Jaguar Land Rover in the Kingdom of Bahrain announces the introduction of its latest campaign on the All-New 2016 Jaguar XF. Under the features of the campaign, the All-New 2016 Jaguar XF is currently made available at highly competitive prices starting from BD 18,995 and it is additionally enveloped with amazing offers such as 5 years free warranty, a free 5 year service package, free road assistance services for 5 years and free registration. Customers also have the option to trade-in their existing vehicle for the All-New 2016 Jaguar XF.



FORD TRUCKS COMMERCIAL RANGE DEBUTS



Ford Trucks have opened a newly constructed showroom in Manama. A team of trained personnel will staff the showroom. The showroom can accommodate up to 3 trucks and the service area can receive up to 250 trucks per day. Preferred by concrete plants and long haulage transportation all around the region, Ford Trucks offer high quality and durability with low initial investment and low operating costs. Popular Ford Truck models, 1843T tractor and 3535M (6x4) can

be customized with transmission and cabin modules for on road and off road conditions. Tractors and construction vehicles are offered with 10 mm 500 Mpa chassis frames. Public & Special Trucks are mainly used for municipality, army and various applications which are offered with many superstructure alternatives and capable of fulfilling market needs. Ford Trucks offer standard 2 year/ unlimited km warranty in Bahrain. Warranty terms substantially contribute to the readily competitive total cost of ownership of Ford Truck models.

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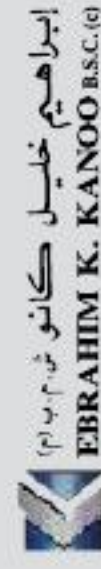


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PROTOTYPE TRD LAND CRUISER SPOTTED



Is Toyota making an upgraded TRD version of its mega-popular Land Cruiser SUV? This test mule was spotted and it shows some noticeable changes from the newly-refreshed LC. Riding at a similar height to a stock Land Cruiser, this TRD version appears to consist of five-spoke split-rim TRD wheels, slightly different front and rear fascias, and plastic TRD-badged fender flares that have a curious tacked-on quality – we assume these are not final production pieces or painted. The interior looked to be the same as the regular LC, with a TRD start button. An educated

guess assumes the suspension uses stiffer TRD front coilovers and rear shocks and springs – making it a response to the Desert Edition of the Nissan Patrol, potentially. Toyota showcased a heavily-modified LC at SEMA last year but this doesn't appear to be anything like that concept car; if we had to guess, it's a base 4.6-litre V8 LC with the extra TRD bits fitted locally, which is exactly how Nissan assembles the Desert Edition Patrol. Worth noting that that car uses locally-developed bits, whereas TRD components are traditionally built and designed in Japan.

BMW GROUP FUELS REGIONAL GROWTH

The BMW Group is reflecting on another positive year in the Middle East, with 33,516 BMW and MINI cars sold across 12 countries, representing an 11% increase in sales over 2014. The company witnessed growth in almost all markets, with the UAE performing the best in terms of volume sales with 20,090 cars delivered to customers across all the Emirates, followed by Saudi Arabia with 4,125. Other strong performers included Kuwait with 2,845 and Qatar with 1,756 car sales. Meanwhile, the biggest individual growth came from Lebanon with a 42% increase, followed by Abu Dhabi with 36%, Jordan with 28%, Oman with 13% and Qatar with 10% sales growth.

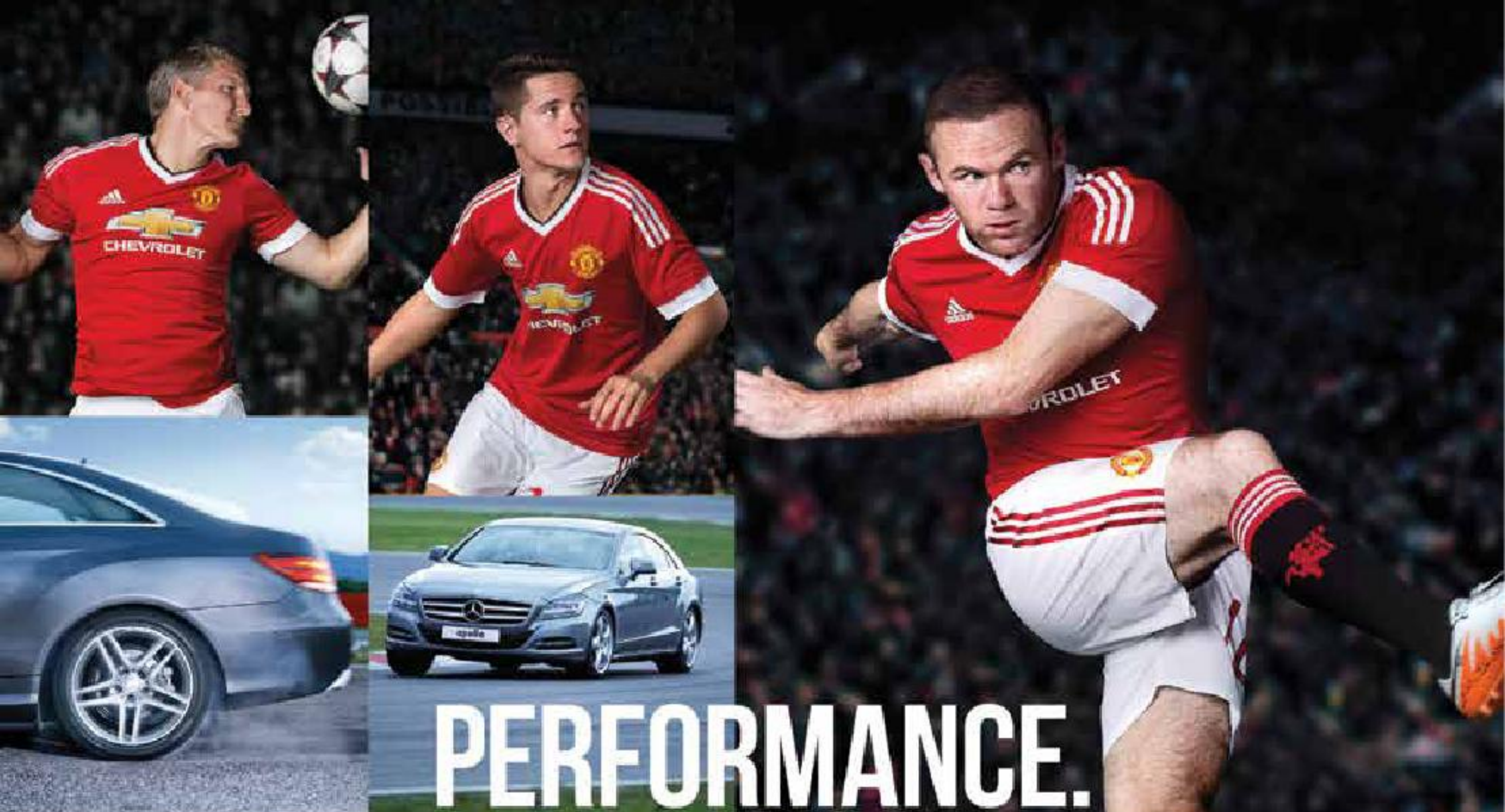


ROLLS-ROYCE ANNOUNCES RECORD SALES



Rolls-Royce Motor Cars has announced that 2015 was another record-breaking year of sales in the Middle East, with a 4% growth in overall sales meaning that the region maintains its position as the second largest in the world for the brand, representing around a quarter of its worldwide volumes. Globally, 3,785 cars were delivered to customers in 2015, the second highest sales in the marque's 112-year history.

Abu Dhabi was announced as the best-selling dealership for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars for the third consecutive year, with Abu Dhabi Motors one of four Middle East dealerships in the top five globally along with Saudi Arabia (Mohamed Yousuf Naghi Motors), Dubai (AGMC) and Doha (Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Doha). The latter reported record sales, growing an impressive 21% along with Oman (11%) and Kuwait (6%).



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MONSTER BY MULLINER

Monster - a high-performance audio manufacturer, has teamed up with Bentley Motors' bespoke coach-building division, Mulliner, to create a stunning and uniquely Monster-inspired "Monster by Mulliner," which made

its debut at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2016. The show-stopping Bentley Continental GT V8 S, which reflects Monster's attitude of "Always Lead, Never Follow," is designed to appeal to the target market of young professionals

and movers and shakers in sports and music. The "Monster by Mulliner" Continental GT V8 S is a bespoke vehicle that will inspire those who want a ride with a bold look and incredible audio performance designed by Monster.



BARRA NAMED CHAIRMAN OF GM BOARD

The General Motors Board of Directors announced that it has unanimously elected Mary Barra as its next Chairman, effective immediately. She succeeds Theodore (Tim) Solso, who will continue serving as the Board's Lead Independent Director. Barra has served as GM CEO since Jan. 15, 2014. Prior to being named CEO in 2014, Barra served as executive vice president, Global Product Development, Purchasing & Supply Chain since August 2013, and as senior vice president, Global Product Development since February 2011. In these roles, she was responsible for the design, engineering, program management and quality of GM vehicles around the world.

PORSCHE COMMITTED TO MANUAL TRANSMISSIONS



Manual gearboxes no longer make much rational sense for sports car makers. Dual-clutch automatic transmissions, or even well-sorted conventional automatics, can shift gears quicker and return better fuel economy. And as driver-assistance systems get closer to full autonomy, cars so equipped will increasingly need to also exercise control over ratio selection. Hence the depressing trend of the declining number of stick-equipped sports cars. That's not going to be the case at Porsche, however, with the company acknowledging that manual gearboxes still have an emotional appeal that far outweighs their technical limitations. Erhard Mössle, Porsche's engineering boss for the 911 Turbo, Carrera 4, and Targa, was happy to reassure us that we'll be seeing manual-equipped 911s for the foreseeable future.

BENZ REFRESHES THE G-WAGEN

The G-Class models, G 500 and G 63, offer up to 16 percent more power with the added benefit of lower fuel consumption. The range includes the G 500 with a new, powerful 4.0-litre V8 biturbo engine. A new suspension setup, together with more sensitive ESP® control results in increased driving stability, safety and road comfort. The exterior and interior have also been given an upgrade. At the same time,

an exclusive AMG special edition will be available. Visually, the new G 500 models are especially easy to identify by their restyled bumpers and now standard AMG flared wheel arches in the colour of the vehicle. On the inside, the

G 500 feature an eye-catching instrument cluster in two-tube look with 11.4 cm multifunction display and redesigned pointers and dials. The two AMG models also sport a redesigned instrument cluster.





Bahrain largest used car market

PORSCHE DELIVERS OVER 225,000 CARS



Porsche can look back on an extremely successful fiscal year. With 225,121 vehicles delivered to customers worldwide, the company achieved a new record in 2015, exceeding the previous record of 189,849 cars in 2014 by 19 per cent.

For the first time, the strongest single market in 2015 was China where Porsche delivered 58,009 vehicles. Compared with 2014, this was an increase of 24 per cent. In second place came the USA with 51,756 vehicles, a growth of 10 per cent. The European market grew by 24 per cent to 75,354 units where Germany is the strongest single market with a total of 28,953 vehicles delivered (+21 per cent).

FORD SAYS "SAYONARA!" TO THE JAPANESE MARKET



Ford Motor Company is pulling out of Japan, where it sells both the Ford and Lincoln brands.

According to a report, affected employees were notified of the decision via an email from David Schoch, Ford president of the Asia Pacific region. The company also is quitting the Indonesian market. Ford currently sells six

models in Japan: the Fiesta, Focus, Mustang, EcoSport, Kuga (Escape), and Explorer. Lincoln offers the MKX and the Navigator. The company's 52 dealerships peddled some 5000 cars last year in the Land of the Rising Sun, where Ford has operated since 1974. Schoch's email cites "no reasonable path to profitability" as the reason

for finally throwing in the towel. Japan's automobile market has long been considered all but closed to foreign automakers—a situation that the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement is not expected to improve. Add in the country's stagnant economy, and the decision probably wasn't too difficult.

JAGUAR F-TYPE BRITISH DESIGN EDITION

Based on the F-TYPE S Coupé and Convertible, and featuring a range of visual enhancements and additional equipment, the British Design Edition is offered in a specially-selected colour palette inspired by the Union Jack: Caldera Red, Glacier White

and – new to the F-TYPE range – Ultra Blue. Ultimate Black is also available. Further enhancements to the F-TYPE's award-winning design come from the Sport Design pack and discreet British Design Edition badges front and

rear, with unique branding on the centre console, headrests and the stainless steel tread plates.

Behind the 20-inch Cyclone wheels with unique Satin Grey finish is an uprated braking system featuring red calipers (black is available as an option).

Complementing the range of exterior colours is a crafted premium Jet

leather interior finished with contrast stitching in a choice of three colours. The driver-focused theme of the 'one-plus-one' cabin is heightened by carbon fibre trim around the centre console. The Jaguar F-TYPE British Design Edition will be available in Coupé and Convertible body styles. Power comes exclusively from a 380HP supercharged 3.0-litre V6 engine.





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10TH DEATH REPORTED IN TAKATA AIRBAG RECALL



Defective Takata airbag inflators have seemingly caused the death of a tenth victim, and automakers will be expanding recalls yet again, according to Reuters.

An unidentified man in South Carolina was killed on December 22 when he hit a cow in his 2006 Ford Ranger and metal from a ruptured inflator sliced his neck, Reuters said. The death is the ninth in the U.S.—one fatality occurred in Malaysia—and the first death to occur outside of a Honda vehicle since that automaker started recalling Takata airbag inflators in 2008. The ninth U.S. fatality was confirmed in December. The 2004–2006 Ranger is among the 1.5 million Ford vehicles subject to the Takata recalls.

2017 LEXUS LC SPIED IN PRODUCTION BODY



A prototype of Lexus's upcoming flagship luxury coupe, which will be positioned far higher up the automotive food chain than the Japanese brand's only other current coupe model, the RC. The new model was previewed by the California-designed LF-LC concept at the 2012 Detroit auto show, but now running prototypes are plying public roads abroad. We can't tell from these shots what comprises the LC's structure, but we know it won't incorporate the piles of carbon fiber used in the stratospherically expensive LFA supercar. Plan on a modified version of the rear- or all-wheel-drive GS platform or possibly a shortened LS structure.

SHELBY ANNOUNCES NEW TERLINGUA MUSTANG



Shelby gets radical—built on its Super Snake package, Shelby is offering the Terlingua model with a wholly sensible, Hellcat-stomping “750-plus” horsepower from a supercharged version of the Mustang GT's Coyote 5.0. To handle the grunt power, the new Terlinguas will get Ford Performance half-shafts. To

help them exhale, they'll get Borla exhausts. Brembo is onboard to provide stopping power, and manual-equipped cars get short-throw shifters. If you're feeling especially racy, Sparco seats with four-point harnesses are optional, as is a roll cage. That, of course, is optional, on top of Shelby's \$65,999 fee for making the performance

upgrades, adding the carbon body bits, and installing a plaque bearing the signatures of Shelby, Titus, and Neale. Shelby American is building only 75 of the cars—50 for the U.S. market and 25 for the rest of the world—so if you're a well-heeled fan of that period of Shelby history, we'd suggest getting your order in.

FORD TO MAKE STOP-START STANDARD

Before you go complaining that your new F-150 keeps stalling at intersections, check the dash for the little green “A” icon. Starting with the 2017 model year, all six-cylinder EcoBoost F-150 models will come equipped with

auto stop-start.

Formerly, only the 2.7-liter turbocharged V-6 came with stop-start, which requires a more robust (and expensive) absorbent-glass-mat battery that can better handle the constant cycling

and the heavier draw from vehicle accessories with the engine off. When the 2017 models arrive later this year, the 3.5-liter EcoBoost V-6 also will get stop-start. That includes the beastly 10-speed Raptor. The normally aspirated 3.5-liter V-6 will not offer the system.



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AUDI TAKES VICTORY AT HANKOOK 24 HOURS



German car manufacturer Audi can add victory in the Hankook 24H DUBAI to its already impressive list of achievements in the world's major endurance races. With their Audi R8 LMS (#19), run by Belgian Audi Club Team WRT, drivers Alain Ferté, Michael Meadows, Stuart Leonard and Laurens Vanthoor racked up a total of 588 laps of the 5.399 kilometres long Dubai Autodrome, equalling a total of 3,174.612 kilometres. Belgian driver Laurens Vanthoor drove the winning car across the finish line.

SH SALMAN TAKES 2000CC TITLE



Shaikh Salman won both rounds of the BIC 2000CC races in dramatic fashion in the fourth round of the Challenge. Shaikh Salman had a little luck on his side in winning the two races in the BIC 2,000cc Challenge.

Race one saw him start in the front row alongside pole-sitter and brother Shaikh Hamad bin Isa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa. Driving identical Honda CIVIC challengers, the pair were well ahead of the rest of the pack, engaged in an exciting head-to-head battle for first place over

the opening half of the 12-lap sprint. But a small mistake from Shaikh Hamad gave Shaikh Salman just enough room to seize the lead. He eventually went on to win in a total race time of 15 minutes 43.911 seconds. Shaikh Hamad had to settle for the runner-up spot only 0.792 seconds, while Alex Longden in a BMW 3 Series/F20C was third 24.495secs back.

Tim Birkin in a Honda Integra was classified fourth, Stephen Kellogg in a Honda Civic fifth, Lee Stones in a Renault Clio sixth, Tareq Al Tajer in a Ford Focus was seventh and Hussain Karimi in a Honda CRX finished eighth.

In race two, Shaikh Salman had a more convincing victory after taking over as leader. The former 2,000cc champion took the chequered flag in 16:13.950, with Birkin in second place 1.364secs back and Stones in third trailing by 1:05.413.

Shaikh Hamad had a mechanical problem and had to drop out of the race, while Karimi, Longden and Kellogg were also not classified.

The next round of both the BIC 2,000cc Challenge and the BSBK will take place on February 12 at BIC.



QATAR PULLS FUNDING

A member of Qatar's ruling family abruptly pulled his funding of Al-Anabi Racing, one of NHRA drag racing's leading teams, one month before the new season opens in Pomona, the team said last month. The Brownsburg, Ind.-based team, formed in 2009, is led by Alan Johnson, one of the sport's best-known crew chiefs, and was backed by Sheik Khalid Al Thani, a member of the ruling family of Qatar. The



team has two cars, driven by Shawn Langdon and Khalid alBalooshi, in the premier top-fuel class of the National Hot Rod Assn.'s Mello Yello Series. No explanation was provided for Al Thani's move and the team declined to say more. It wasn't known if the precipitous drop in oil prices in recent months played a role. It costs roughly \$5 million a year to field a leading top-fuel dragster, which can reach speeds topping 320 mph.



SH. ISA & ZAID TRIUMPH IN ROTAX KARTING SPRINTS



Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Zaid Audih each came away with back-to-back victories last month in the second round of the 2015/2016 Bahrain Rotax Mojo Max Challenge (BRMMC), held at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir. Shaikh Isa staved off some tough competition to triumph in the BRMMC's Max category, while Zaid was the main man in the Junior Max class. Meanwhile, Khalid Alsaie and Abdulla Buhindi pulled off the narrowest of wins in round four of the Bahrain SWS

Championship (SSWS). Both the BRMMC and the SSWS make up the Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship (BKSC). The BRMMC is for Rotax kart owners, while the SSWS is an arrive-and-drive series open to all.

In the BRMMC, Shaikh Isa won the opening 11-lap sprint after completing the Max race in a total time of 10 minutes 42.071 seconds. He finished 3.928secs ahead of runner-up His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Hussain Hassan was not classified as he completed only four laps.

In race two, Shaikh Isa secured his fine double in 10:39.406.

Shaikh Mohammed was once again the runner-up, but this time was a mere 2.397secs off the winning pace. Hasan managed to make it onto the final classification in third place. He was 3.083s behind Shaikh Isa.

In the Junior Max class, Zaid won the first race in a total time of 11:16.365. He then dramatically improved on his time to win race two in 11:06.395. There was also plenty of heated action in both SSWS races, which featured 13 participants each.

Alsaie claimed the race one chequered flag in 13:27.690. Buhindi came close to stealing first place as only 0.054s separated the pair. Ali Baslar claimed the last podium step 1.125s back. Khalid Alwazzan came fourth, Ahmed Ebrahim fifth, Visheh Mhatre was sixth, while rounding out the top eight were Aabed Faraj and Louay Malas. In race two, the gap between the leading two was even shorter. Baslar this time triumphed in 13:30.100 - a mere 0.050secs separated from his closest challenger Buhindi, who had to settle for his second runner-up finish. Alsaie was also not far behind, classified in third 0.083secs from first. Ranked fourth through eighth, respectively, were Yousif Khamiri, Malas, Ebrahim, Sami Favre and Alwazzan.

Following all the action, the winners received their respective trophies in a podium ceremony. The BKSC resumes this month (February 2016) with round three of the BRMMC and round five of the SSWS.

Boosted Raptor

Ford has revealed what the **2017 F150 Raptor** is going to be like – some of you may be disappointed!

When Ford debuted the Raptor in 2010, it took the truck world by storm – opening up a whole new niche in the truck segment. It was a purpose-built off-road machine, backed up by a factory warranty. It even wore the famed “SVT” (Special Vehicle Team) badge – so those who bled Ford blue could wear those blue shades with even more pride.

The Raptor is a heady machine to be sure and originally came equipped with either a 5.4 liter V8 or a 6.2 liter V8.

For 2017, Ford has thoroughly redesigned the Raptor and it now sports a dedicated chassis and powertrain. The Raptor’s new boxed steel frame is reinforced from the normal F-150’s and will come in two sizes: the sportier SuperCab and the roomier SuperCrew. Ford claims that the new

truck’s aluminum body (as well as the composite hood and front fenders) helps trim about 230 kilos from its predecessor’s curb weight.

The suspension has been reworked as well with all-aluminum control arms and specially tuned springs with coils up front and leaf springs out back, and 3.0-inch internal-bypass Fox Racing shocks in place of the old 2.5s. Ford also says that owing to these improvements, suspension travel is greater than the previous truck’s, with 11.2 inches in front and 12.1 at the rear.

All great stuff so far! Here’s the part that may wipe the smile off of some of your faces – the new Raptor is only available with Ford’s new 3.5 liter V6 EcoBoost engine. But before you dismiss it entirely, you might want to take a peep at the stats; the engine is mated to a ten-speed automatic transmission and puts out a colossal 450hp and 450lb.ft of torque. Rumors abound that these power numbers, combined with the aluminum body will be able to push the 35-inch-tall BFGoodrich All-Terrain T/A KO2 – equipped Raptor through the quarter mile in about 13.7 seconds. **WMA**



If you can get over the V6 in the nose, the Raptor is the truck to have





GT Spirit

Track bred Bentley GT3 R

Fancy feeling what it's like to be behind the wheel of one of those GT cars you see on track during the WEC 6 Hours of Bahrain, but without the extreme discomfort of a stripped out interior? Well, then this here Bentley is what you need to get; The Continental GT3 R.

Produced in a limited run of just 300 examples, this car harks at Bentley's extensive racing heritage and basically gives race-blooded Bentley fans a proper halo car to drool over.

The heart of the GT3 R is a rebuilt and retuned 4.0 liter twin turbo V8 engine that now produces 572 horses and 516lb.ft of torque, thanks to new pistons, turbos, a titanium exhaust and engine

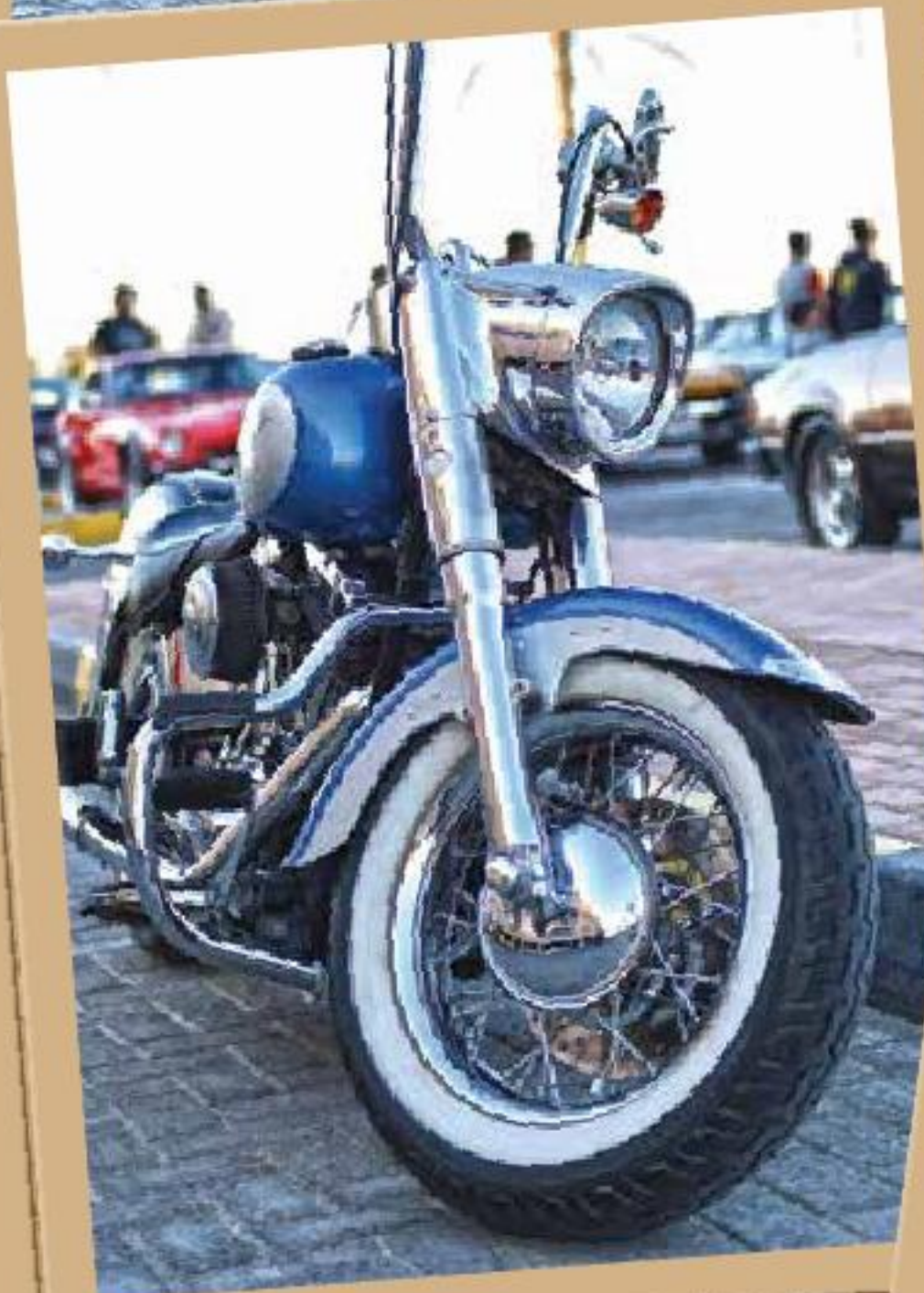
recalibration. There's even an over boost function that allows you to squeeze 592 horses and 553lb.ft for 15 seconds – handy when you need that little extra to cut down your track day lap times. All said and done, the GT3 R can accelerate to 100kph in just 3.5 seconds, which is impressive for what started out as a luxury Grand Tourer.

Engineers put the GT3 on a diet, shedding about 100 kilos from the car's total kerb weight. There are also ceramic brakes, a shorter final drive ratio (3.50 versus 2.85) as well as a retuned gearbox for quicker changes. The interior gets the whole suede and Alcantara treatment, as well as carbon fiber accents (replacing all the wood trim). The GT3 R also comes sans the rear seats, in place of which there is a diamond-pleated parcel shelf. **AM**

No wood - the interior on the GT3 R is piped with suede, Alcantara & carbon fiber

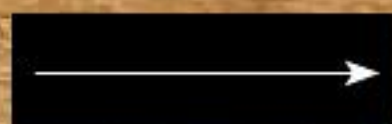






SHOW STOPPER

**AMERICAN EAGLES PULLS OFF YET ANOTHER
SUPERB GATHERING OF PETROL HEADS**





This one was different though; yes there were the usual suspects, but instead of a sea of American iron, the Bahrain BMW Group rolled in with a sea of some of the finest examples of Bavarian metal that we had ever laid our eyes on! The highlight of this group had to be the super-clean E34 M5 that one group member actually drives around daily.

Now that's what we call true petrol head spirit!

The Honda guys occupied a whole section of Le Marche Sitra Mall's parking lot where the show was held, and among them were a couple of Del Sols and a smattering of tricked out Civics. But the news here was the ever-growing number of guys bagging their new Accords – we initially thought that this was exclusively a Saudi thing, but these cars were all Bahraini, leading us to believe that this trend has now caught on here as well.

A couple of familiars made an appearance – including Talal Baqer's restored Olds Cutlass 442 that we featured before. There were also a





"WANT TO SEE WHAT BAHRAIN'S CAR CULTURE IS ABOUT? COME TO AN AMERICAN EAGLES CAR SHOW!"



couple of old-school Caddies as well as a 1972 Mercedes 280SE Convertible - a rare beauty.

The cops made an appearance and told everyone present about what they should do if their car ever catches fire, a few Supras did some revs and burnouts and another whole lot was dedicated to Nissan Zs. The Challenger club made an honorary appearance as well with a handful of new-age Mopars.

The best part of the entire show however, was when one of the ricer Honda boys hopped into his Del Sol and sped off, pulled a u-turn at the Sitra traffic lights and gun it only to lose control of his (Chinese coil-over'd) car and smash into the crash barriers. - little pieces and chunks of red Sol scattering the roadside. As soon as the crowd began running toward the scene however, out hopped a little friend through the open targa top (we're thinking it's most likely because the passenger door got jammed shut in the impact), grab some pieces of wreckage off the tarmac, hop back in and the getaway driver limped his broken Honda off to corner away from prying eyes (and cell-phone cameras) in a hurry.

So there's really no telling what one can expect when petrol heads gather and this show did not - in usual fashion - disappoint. Dig the metal! **AM** ➡





This Del Sol doesn't look like this now...



"JDMS, TRUCKS, BEEMERS, MERCS, MUSCLE CARS, HOT RODS - YOU NAME IT & THIS SHOW'S GOT IT!"





JDM Team Reppin!



Bagged Accords pull a stance

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

AN INSIDE LOOK AT EURO MOTORS' US\$30M JAGUAR LAND ROVER SHOWROOM

There are car showrooms and then there are car showrooms – this new Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) showroom envisioned and built by local JLR distributor Euro Motors is decidedly the latter. Euro Motors has long been associated with Land Rover, becoming one of the official distributors of the brand dating as far back as 1949. Euro Motors then upped the ante by being named as the sole distributor for Jaguar in the Kingdom beginning October 2013.



The 2,500 strong audience at the launch of the new Euro Motors JLR showroom



The new home of Jaguar Land Rover

Construction on the 30 million US\$ showroom initially began in April 2014 and was completed in a span of less than two years, with the showroom opening its doors to the public in December 2015.

THE SPEC SHEET

- The showroom spans over 5,000 square meters and has two floors, and was specifically constructed to house new as well as Approved JLR vehicles for the next ten years.
- The Ground Floor follows JLR's "Arch Concept", where one entrance leads to two separate areas for Jaguar and Land Rover respectively.
- Each section for Jaguar and Land Rover is acutely tailored to reflect the respective brands' unique brand identities.
- In addition to the display area, the showroom also houses a dedicated and state-of-the-art workshop, where factory-trained technicians can work on up to 32 vehicles at a time.
- It is the first purpose-built facility in the Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) region to be fully compliant with JLR's latest Corporate Identity standards. **AIM**



Range Rover Sport SVR on display inside the new showroom's dedicated Land Rover section



The classic Jaguar E-Type (below left), followed by the new XF (center) on display in the Jaguar section

ENZO FERRARI

A FITTING TRIBUTE
TO THE FOUNDER
OF THE WORLD'S
GREATEST SUPERCAR
– **THE FERRARI
ENZO**

Enzo Ferrari

S

upercar fanatics the world over wondered how Ferrari would ever top the insanity of the F40 and the technological marvel that was the F50. The year was 2002 and Michael Schumacher was keeping Ferrari ahead of the game with his unconquerable F1 winning streak. Thus said, Ferrari decided to put pedal to the metal and create what is till date - one of the most widely revered and instantly recognizable supercars – the Enzo.

FERRARI



The moniker comes from Ferrari's founder - Enzo Ferrari and there isn't another car that readily deserves to be named after the founding father. Produced to commemorate Ferrari's first Formula 1 title of the new millennium, the Enzo was - by every means of the word - as close to a road-going F1 car as one could get at the time,

and many still argue that that statement holds true till date. Apparently, the goal that Ferrari set itself was (in Ferrari's own words: "to turn the Enzo into an integrated system that would actually improve upon the driver's performance capacities through the use of a Formula 1-style human-machine interface."

BODYWORK AND CHASSIS

If you thought that the F50 looked ungodly owing to its function over form design, the Enzo would take that concept and reinvent it. That pointed front section was completely inspired by the Formula 1 car's nose cone while its composite flanks were sculpted ➡





Interior is driver-focused but comes with air-con, leather & power steering



to channel air flow for superb internal fluid-dynamics. The tail was devoid of any big wings to keep the Enzo planted – instead it utilized a subtle active rear spoiler that sat flush with the deck.

Designed by Pininfarina, the body of the Enzo was made entirely out of an advanced composite structure, featuring carbon fiber and an aluminum honeycomb sandwich that made it light, rigid and incredibly safe. The aero-driven body design could achieve 775 kgs of downforce at 300 km/h, and that then gradually decreased to 585 kg at its maximum speed of 350 km/h.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Enzo is a benchmark of carbon fiber shrouded simplicity; even the seats were carbon buckets. The steering wheel featured control buttons akin to that of an F1 car. Despite this, the Enzo still featured creature comforts such as an audio system, air-conditioning and power steering.

POWERTRAIN AND SUSPENSION

The engine on the Enzo was a masterpiece of cutting-edge engineering derived directly from Ferrari's F1 program. The all-new 65-degree 5,998CC (6.0-liter) V12 produced a colossal 660 hp at 7,800RPM. This was combined with a rear-mounted electro-hydraulic F1 6-speed transmission (clutchless manual, actuated via paddle-shifters). Shift times are an incredible 150 milliseconds.

The Enzo was the first Ferrari road car to feature Carbon Ceramic discs and the braking system was developed by Brembo.

The Enzo featured pushrod actuated suspension at both ends along with unequal-length wishbones, coil springs, telescopic shock absorbers and electronic adaptive damping.

PERFORMANCE

Weighing in at 1255 kilos, the Enzo could accelerate to 100kph from a standstill in just

3.3 seconds (according to various independent tests) and through the quarter mile in 11 seconds flat. Top speed is in excess of 355 kph.

PRODUCTION NUMBERS

At the 2002 Paris Motor Show, then Pininfarina Head Designer Ken Okuyama announced that the Enzo would be limited to a run of just 349 examples. In keeping with Ferrari tradition, preference was given to existing owners of F40s and F50s; as such, the entire lot of 349 cars had sold out before production began. However, after numerous requests from some pretty influential Ferrari clientele, Ferrari agreed to produce 50 more Enzos, thus bringing the production total to 399 units.

In addition, Enzos are listed as being manufactured in model year 2003 only, but in 2004, Ferrari built a one-off Enzo to be gifted to Pope John Paul II by Luca Di Montezemolo and other Ferrari executives at the Vatican in January 2005. This brought the total number to an even 400.



AUCTION VALUES

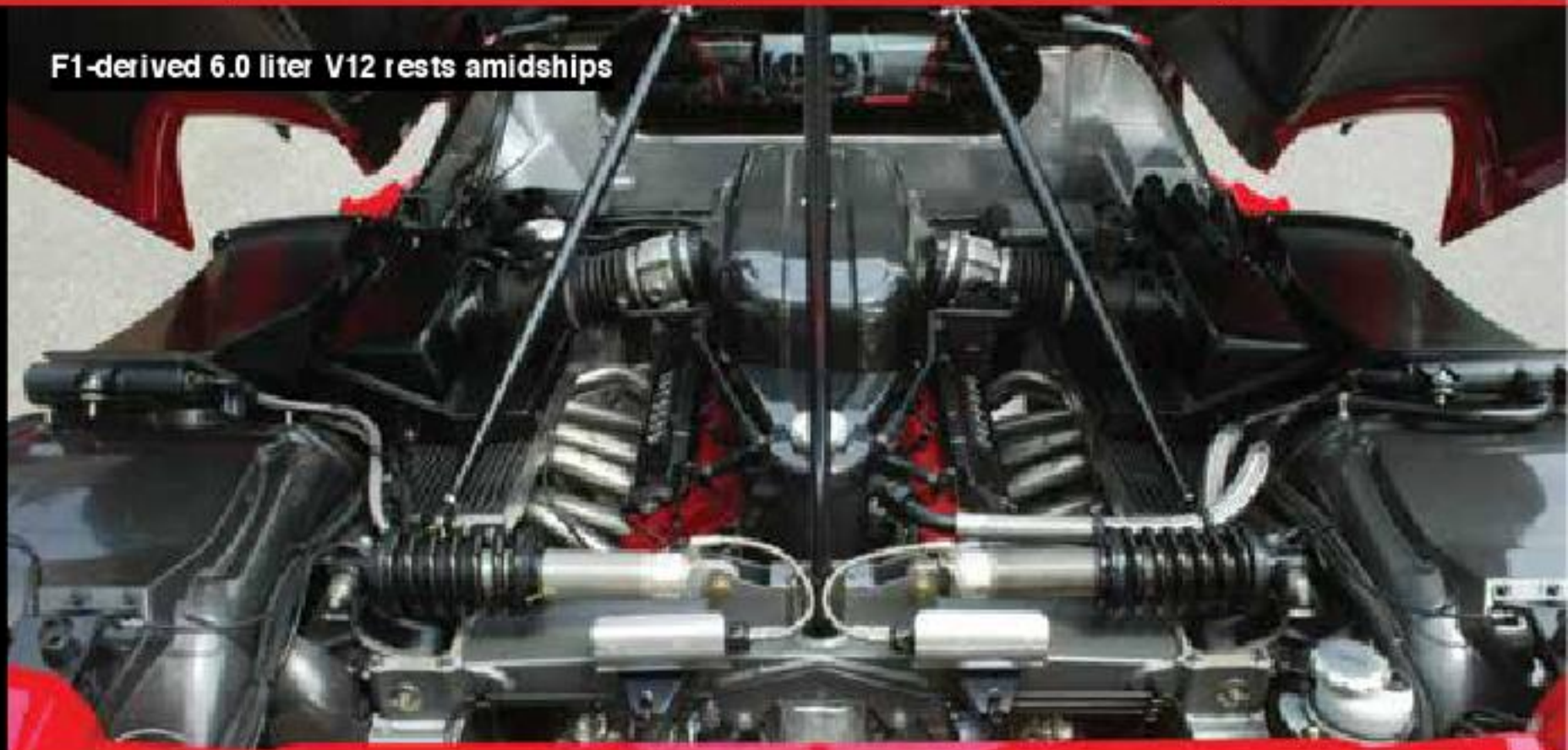
Currently, Enzos fetch upwards of 3,000,000 US\$. However, the 400th Enzo that was gifted to the Vatican (as mentioned earlier) sold at RM Sotheby's in August 2015 for the sum of 6,050,000 US\$.

SPECIAL EDITIONS

As the result of the Enzo, Ferrari decided to use some of the technology developed in the Ferrari FXX. It is loosely based on the Enzo's design with a highly tuned 6.3 litre version of the Enzo's engine putting out 790 hp. The gearbox is new as well as the tires (custom-designed for this car by Bridgestone) and the brakes (developed by Brembo). In addition, the car is fitted with extensive data-recording and telemetry systems to allow Ferrari to record the car's behavior. Like the Enzo, the car was sold to specially selected existing clients of Ferrari only. Unlike the Enzo, the clients did not take delivery of the car themselves. Rather, it is maintained by Ferrari and available for the client's use on various circuits as arranged by Ferrari and also during private track sessions. The FXX is not street-legal.

The Ferrari FXX program was continued until 2008/2009 with the Ferrari FXX Evoluzione. The 6262 cc V12 engine pushed out 850 hp at 9500 rpm. Gearbox changes were made so that shift times were reduced to 60 milliseconds per shift, a reduction of 20 milliseconds. The car also underwent aerodynamic changes and improvements to the traction control system. Its top speed is 365 km/h. **AM**

F1-derived 6.0 liter V12 rests amidships



The Ferrari Enzo FXX



RECORD BREAKER

EKANOO RACING TEAM DEMOLISHES IMPORT WORLD RECORD

Everyone knows the Ekanoo racing team – they’ve become so notoriously infamous in the drag racing scene that their name no longer warrants an introduction – rather a red carpet into the world of record-breakers, since, this past month on a cool day at the Bahrain Drag Racing Club’s NHRA drag strip at the Bahrain International Circuit, record breaking exactly what they did.





THE EKANOO RACING RECORD SHEET AT A GLANCE:

- Pro Import GT86 – 5.774@399.05kph
- Stock Chassis Supra – 6.60@349.49KPH
- Super Street V8 Lexus RCF - 4.174@317KM/H
- Nissan GTR - 7.44@200mph



THE RECORD BOOK

Their stock chassis Toyota Supra piloted by veteran Mohammed Shakeeb, ran a colossal 6.60@349.49KPH in the quarter. Numbers that have yet again catapulted the name of EKAnoo Racing and consequently the BDRC and the Kingdom of Bahrain as a whole to the top tier of drag racing fame across the globe. Calling it a proud achievement at this point would seem like underselling it. But the biggest bombshell of all was dropped when Gary White pointed the nose of the team's Pro Import GT86 to an astonishing 5.774@399.05kph, officially making it the quickest and fastest import pass in history.

But that's not all; running a foray of cars such as a Nissan GTR, a 69 Camaro, an RCF, and a pair of GT86s, the EKAnoo Racing Team is no stranger to breaking records. Last month, their Super Street V8 Lexus RCF Twin Turbo driven by yet another veteran - Khalid Mohammed, ran a 4.174@317KM/H in the 1/8th mile, setting a new BDRC class ET Record, a Super Street V8 world record and the quickest pass ever recorded on true 10.5 slicks. So no big deal there.

Of course, this record list would not be complete without mentioning the 7.44@200mph pass that the EKAnoo Racing's Nissan GTR pulled off as well, piloted by Ebrakim Kanoo himself.

EKAnoo Racing has some of the world's foremost names in drag racing on their roster including Shane Tecklenburg, Josh Ledford, Jamie Miller, Tim Davis, Eric Luzinski, Haider Koozhad, and many more skilled mechanics that keep these juggernauts race ready. **AM**



THE BIG INTERVIEW

THE AUTOMOTIVE SHOWCASE

FOLLOWING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE KINGDOM'S LARGEST AUTOMOTIVE SHOWROOM, WE HAVE A QUICK CHAT WITH THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF EURO MOTORS JAGUAR LAND ROVER – MR. NAWAF AL ZAYANI

How and why was the concept of this new showroom conceived? When was it decided that the need for such a stellar (US\$30M) investment was prudent?

The concept of the new showroom is a reflection of our confidence in both Jaguar and Land Rover brands and our customers enjoying the motoring experience. In keeping with the distinguished nature of our partnership with Jaguar Land Rover Limited and in line with our commitment to our customers to offer excellence in everything that we offer, we took it upon ourselves to innovate in our constant strive towards bigger and better things. Our new showroom is the pinnacle of that reality and it is in line with the philosophy of building towards a more promising future and raising the benchmark of standards in both services and products, within the automotive industry in Bahrain. Globally, Jaguar ➡



“This new showroom represents the home and lifestyle of Jaguar and Land Rover brands in Bahrain of which our customers are indeed a part.”

Land Rover is a leading manufacturer of luxury vehicles and the standards of the brand deserve this state of the art facility.

Our association as Al Zayani Family with Land Rover goes back to 1949, when we became one of the first Distributors of Land Rover in the region. Trust was placed in us further when Euro Motors was appointed by Jaguar Land Rover Limited as the Exclusive Importer and Distributor for Jaguar in the Kingdom of Bahrain in October 2013.

As Jaguar Land Rover Limited recently introduced new brand guidelines for dealerships, the new showroom came at an opportune time as it was an initiative that was in accordance with transition plans for our two prominent brands that had been pre-planned and were already set in motion.

What unique features set the new showroom apart from the rest? What's new and what's different?

It was my uncle Zayed Al Zayani's vision, as he was the M.D. at the time, to build a new showroom that was designed to set the benchmark for the other dealerships in region and as such, everything about it sets it apart from the rest. It is the first purpose built facility in the MENA region to be fully compliant with Jaguar Land Rover's latest corporate identity standards, positioning us to be at the forefront of advancements in the automotive industry in the G.C.C.

Our latest offering spreads over 2 floors and 5,000 square meters and has been specially designed from the outset to house new as well as APPROVED Jaguar and Land Rover vehicles for a minimum of the next ten years. The Ground Floor follows the Jaguar Land Rover Arch concept wherein one showroom entrance leads to two separate areas that exhibit the entire range of Jaguar cars and Land Rover SUVs, each reflecting the respective brand's identity thereby emphasizing on the strengths and

uniqueness of the vehicles. The display space capacity for the new Jaguar and Land Rover vehicles has been doubled as compared to the previous showroom and the new and improved showroom is expansive enough to accommodate a substantial increase in the Approved vehicles section as well that is housed in the First Floor.

As you mentioned earlier, the new Euro Motors JLR Showroom was indeed launched in great style. What was this celebratory inauguration a manifestation of? What exactly did you have in mind with the scope and size of the activities held on the occasion?

Our confidence in our brands led us to hold such grand celebrations to mark the occasion with the prominence that it deserves and with the participation of our customers. This new showroom represents the home and lifestyle of Jaguar and Land Rover brands in Bahrain of which our customers are indeed a part.

When you purchase a Jaguar or Land Rover model, you do not just become an owner of one of the most acclaimed vehicles in the world; rather you become initiated into a lifestyle that soon becomes an inspiring reflection of who you are. Our relationship with our customers goes beyond perceiving them as such; when introduced to our family, we unconditionally welcome them into our wholesome community. Our new showroom was an embodiment of these beliefs, and it deserved a grand party. It was our way of thanking our customers and welcoming them into our fold.

This was most realized in our transformation of the rooftop to emulate an English garden as it sought to invite one and all to immerse themselves in the proud British heritage of our eminent brands and family values and the giving away of the All-New 2016 Jaguar XF as a welcoming, initiation gift. We wanted to create a milestone event that would be remembered for a long time to come and I think it is fair to say that we achieved just that and more.

Since their inception, Jaguar and Land Rover vehicles were always considered to be suitable to those with a high bracket income and now you have some models at entry level pricing. Why the sudden change in that philosophy?

Up until recently, Jaguar Land Rover produced specific models they became renowned for; nonetheless, Land Rover has always had a range of affordable vehicles.

And now with the introduction of new Jaguar models at entry-level prices, they have succeeded in making luxury even more affordable. This is evident with the Jaguar XE, the new XF, the Jaguar F-PACE that will be launched in Bahrain this summer, as well as the Range Rover Discovery Sport.

Besides blazing a trail that created opportunities to attract a higher variety of customers to enjoy the many different models currently on offer, Jaguar Land Rover is consistently setting benchmarks in quality and performance capabilities as well, ensuring that no compromises are being made in the production of this new line. With the All-New Jaguar XE being offered at BD 17,995, the newly introduced All-New Jaguar XF, that was just launched in December 2015, introduced at prices from BD 18,995 and the Land Rover Discovery Sport starting from BD 18,500, we at Euro Motors Jaguar Land Rover are keen to welcome one and all to our new showroom and see more of our wonderful brands on the roads of Bahrain.

Rave reviews have been passed on the latest workshop that the new Euro Motors Jaguar Land Rover Showroom encompasses and word has been spreading about its acute functionality. Would you like to elaborate on this?

Most definitely, and proudly so! In all our years of progress, I can say that the launch of our new workshop was one of our most notable achievements. And that accomplishment has been highlighted by the fact that our state of the art new Workshop is the largest and most Jaguar



Land Rover compliant in the Middle East. With technicians that have been highly trained by certified professionals, we at Euro Motors believe that after-sales is as important as sales. The functional new workshop has had its capacity increased to more than twice that of the previous workshop. This allows work on 32 vehicles at a time. The facility growth was also supported by an increase in the total staffing levels.

We take pride in being able to declare that we have the most qualified, specialized and experienced staff, and this includes both our technical and administrative team members, as is evident in our haul in the internationally acclaimed 2014/15 Jaguar Land Rover Middle East and North Africa Marketing Awards with our receipt of 4 highly coveted Marketing awards.

Therefore, it gives me immense pleasure to state that our achievements to date and all that we have invested have led us to this moment where our new showroom is not just a standard showroom but a luxurious asset that we are immensely proud of. **AM**



CATANA



ATTAK

JAGUAR PACKS A SERIOUS BITE WITH THE NEW XF

When the XF was first launched in 2007, it marked a departure away from the old-school English design heritage that characterized Jag's offerings from pretty much the start of the company. The XF was modern, sleek, tech-laden and had proper performance driven credentials such as a stellar chassis and punchy powertrains.

THE SHELL

Now however, Jaguar has gone back to the drawing board and come out with this completely redesigned XF. You would be forgiven if you think that there's nothing "new" about this Jag – especially from the outside at first glance – but let us, and Jaguar's design team ➡



assure you – that this XF is actually one hundred percent new, sharing naught but a few screws with its outgoing self.

The redesign is a miracle; when the XJ was introduced, it stole the XF's thunder, and when the F-Type and XE debuted, the XF became pretty much the "oldest" Jag in the line-up. Not so anymore; the hood is long and flowing – more like a GT car with the coupe-like silhouette and swept-back rear deck. It looks more like the range topping XJ and a proper mid-size luxury exec. Twin-tailpipes feature at the rear and if you opt for the "S" version like our test car here, you also get big gloss-black painted wheels, performance tires and performance brakes with red-painted calipers. The design is constrained yet sleek and projects the appearance of reserved prowess.

ON THE INSIDE

The interior does not disappoint as well, rather you'd find this English-bred cat's innings quite delightful. Tech abounds with a touch screen infotainment display, voice control, Bluetooth telephone connectivity, touch-operated interior lights, and those wonderful party tricks that never get old – the rotary gear selector that rises from the centre console as you thumb the engine-start button, and the port and starboard air-vents that rotate-open when you turn on the automatic climate control. This being the S-variant, came with tightly bolstered bucket seats trimmed in grippy micro-suede and leather as well as two tone black and red accents. The helm is a chunky three-spoke, leather-wrapped unit and features paddle-shifters at the back.

Rear seat passengers get decent amounts of legroom and although you have to duck a bit when getting into the back owing to the sloping, curvaceous roofline, there's plenty of space once you're in. Besides this, rear seat passengers also get dedicated climate controls and four air vents.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO DRIVE?

The XFS comes equipped with a 3.0-liter supercharged and direct fuel injected V6 and puts out a snarling 380 horses to the rear tires via an 8-speed automatic. The transmission features a Sport mode that livens up engine response and makes

“The XFS comes equipped with a 3.0-liter supercharged V6 and puts out a snarling 380 horses to the rear tires...”

the transmission snap through the gears, along with a Dynamic setting that turns the instrument cluster red and sharpens up the steering, throttle and gets the gearbox to hold on to ratios for longer – just incase you decide you want to belt it all the way to the sub 7,000RPM redline. Out on the road in Normal mode, the XF is a quiet and smooth operator – it's only when you put your foot down that this cat comes alive – past the 4k RPM mark, the engine note turns into a eargasmic snarl as the XF claws its way to the lose-your-license-for-good range. The body-motions of the car are well controlled, and despite the XFS's ultra-low profile performance tires, the chassis is never upsettingly "busy" – even on our pockmarked roads. The steering is direct and has a well-balanced feel to it and the suspension strikes the perfect balance between luxury daily-driver and occasional track/autocross/backroad bruiser. This remarkable ride quality to performance trade-off can be attributed to the fact that 75 percent of the XF (including most of the suspension) is aluminum, along with steel panels and magnesium. Jaguar claims that this makes the XF 28 percent more rigid – and more chassis rigidity equals less weight, better performance, handling and safety.

LAUNCH CONTROL

The XF is perhaps one of the strongest contenders on the mid-size luxury sedan list, and although competitors may offer similar dynamics and tech, what they can't offer is how special the XF feels; it echoes of hand-made British luxury, and has the class, the power, the badge and the tech to stand out from the crowd. Definitely a top performer. **AM**





Rotary gear selector rises majestically out of the center console at engine start



3.0-liter Supercharged V6 makes some serious grunt



UTILITARIA

**Can a utility truck also be a luxury car?
Lexus seems to think so with the GX460**



AN LUXURY



It is quite plain to see that the Lexus GX is based on its Toyota Land Cruiser Prado cousin – that’s the elephant in the room as far as this article is concerned, which is the reason why I wanted to acknowledge this fact and get it out of the way right off the bat.

However, depending on who you are and what your driving preferences are like, this stable-based platform up scaled to a premium will either tick all the right boxes or make you move along swiftly. The reason why this car exists ➡



Helm feels great in wood & leather

is the same reason why a Mercedes G-Wagen exists; there are those who fancy luxury wrapped in a proper utilitarian package. The GX460's Prado underpinnings imbue it with the rugged qualities of a body-on-frame truck, and the fact that the powertrain, interior and suspension have been massaged by Lexus adds a premium appeal.

LOOKS AREN'T ALWAYS DECEIVING

For starters, the GX looks nothing like the Prado – especially when viewed from up front. It actually looks more like its bigger brother – the LX570 owing to the predator-like trapezoidal grille and mean, angular headlamps. The fascia is aggressive and has a bold, love-it-or-hate-it style. Perhaps the only angle where those with an acute eye for style will be able to tell the GX's Toyota connections is from the rear, where the side-hinged, swing-open tailgate is flanked with taillights that are the same silhouette of the Prado's – albeit with LEDs.

WELL-APPOINTED

The similarities with its truck-rooted cousin stop there however, and this is readily apparent when you pull-open the driver's door. An interior packed with the most beautiful wood and leather is what greets you; our test car had a beige-leather interior (my personal favorite), and despite prying over every inch of the interior, I was hard-pressed to find anything other than premium fit and finish. Even the switchgear for the audio and climate controls have a swift, positive motion to them. The entire dash and door cards are covered in leather and wood, as is the helm, and the gear selector. An amusing array of toggle switches feature on the center console and allow you to adjust everything from the ride height to the stiffness of the dampers. There's also one for selecting Low-Range (an advantage of having proper four-wheel-drive). The GX seats 7 owing to its additional third row, but seating capacity isn't what you'd buy this car for anyway. Nevertheless, there's adequate amount of legroom

**“THE GX STRIKES THE PERFECT BALANCE BETWEEN
SIZE, STYLE, CREATURE COMFORTS AND UTILITY.”**





4.6 Liter V8 mill is smooth & refined



in the second row and all three rows are trimmed in the softest of perforated leather one can possibly hope to find. This being a Lexus, creature comforts are aplenty – from the infotainment touch screen with Bluetooth/telephone connectivity, HID headlamps, sunroof, a fridge in the center armrest, heated and cooled seats, automatic air conditioning – you get it – its got the works. You won't be complaining about a lack of options or entertainment.

THE RIDE

What some of you may complain about perhaps is the GX's overly cushy ride; alright maybe not since that's what we like here in the Kingdom. But yes - driving around, the GX feels almost as though you're floating on cushions of air (which is almost true since the rear axle does have air-dampers). So much so that despite setting the dampers to Sport mode, the GX still exhibits a fair amount of body roll in the corners; although this is an expected trade-off for having a platform that's based on a truck. Lexus have gone to great efforts to ensure that the ride quality and driving feel match the level of refinement that one expects in a Lexus, thus it comes equipped with a 4.6-liter V8 engine (hence the moniker), mated to a 6-speed automatic that also has a tiptronic manual mode. The engine is silky smooth and quiet, and purrs under acceleration. It is a torquey mill, and can get this 2500-kilo SUV from standstill to over 100kph in a shade over 6 seconds, which is impressive for a naturally aspirated, luxury SUV.

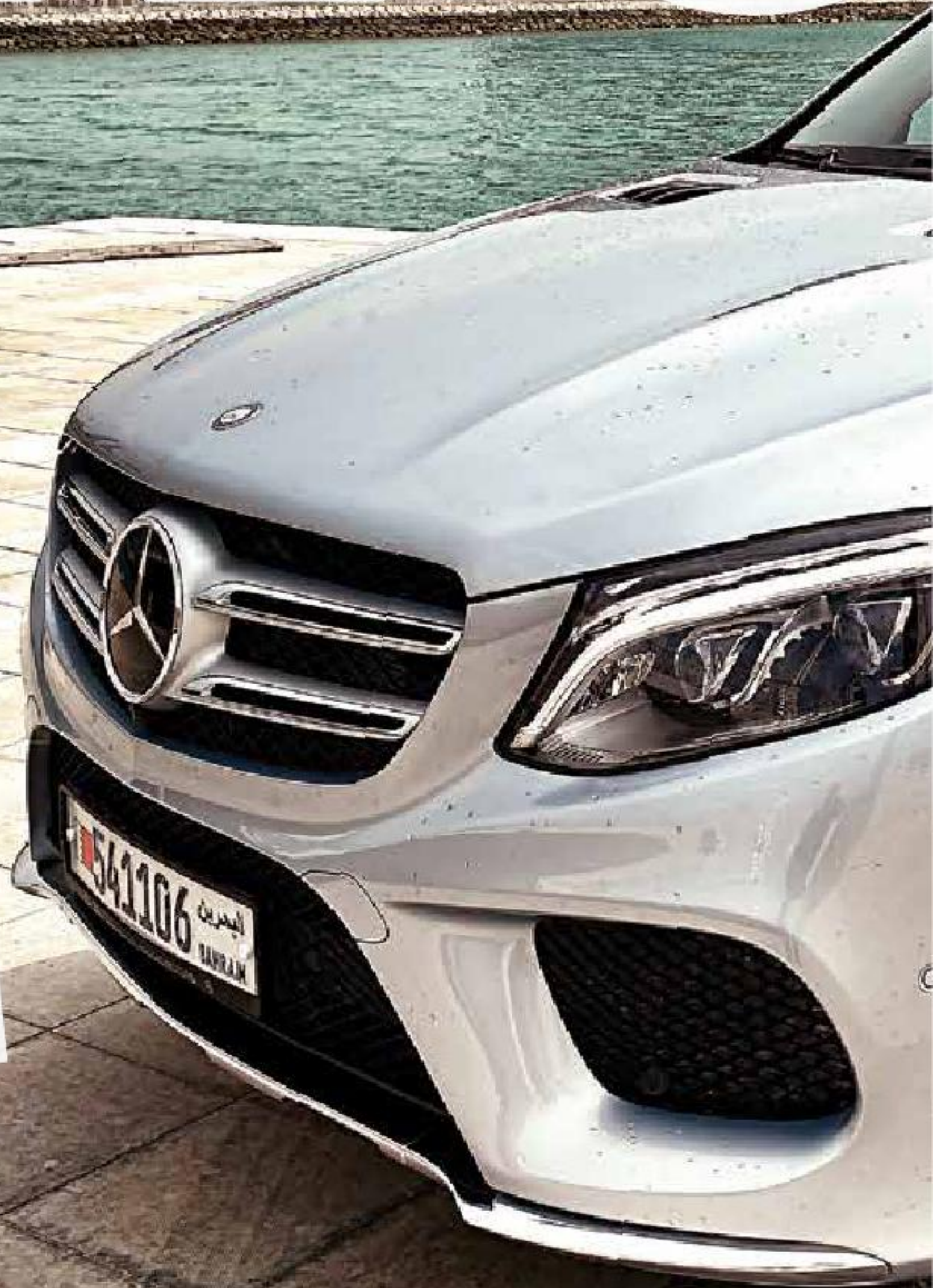
WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

The GX strikes the perfect balance between size, style, creature comforts and utility. It exudes premium quality and will be the perfect daily-driving companion for someone who doesn't necessarily need the added size of the LX570. **AM**

THE PERFECT

MERCEDES' REFRESHED MID-SIZE HEAVY HITTER – THE 2016 GLE 400

Many argue that Mercedes is the company that created the “luxury SUV” niche – back in the late 90’s when the M class was first debuted. Mercedes has worked on de-cluttering its naming scheme, and as such the previously known “ML” is now the GLE – just incase you were wondering. This new 2016 GLE is a mid-cycle refresh and sports a good deal of detail improvements – outside, inside and powertrain wise. ➡



S A N T P A M E R





Twin-turbocharged V6 makes 329hp



Infotainment screen floats atop the dash



Interior is well-built, luxurious & well appointed

EXTERIOR

You wouldn't mistake the GLE for any other car on the road, thanks to the large three-pointed star that sits on the front grille. The GLE looks more elegant owing to the reshaped headlamps (and now looks more like its bigger GL counterpart from up front). The taillights have been redesigned as well and are much larger, wrap-around units. The side profile is raked and sporty, and along with those twin-fork alloys, the overall design effect makes the GLE a bolder and much more handsome car to look at.

ON THE INSIDE

The interior on the GLE 400 is a calming place to be in – right from the scent of the leather and plastics that is unique to a Mercedes, to the position of the COMAND infotainment screen atop the dash like a removable (it isn't) iPad. The helm is a three-spoke, leather wrapped piece, with bolsters at 10 and 2. There are paddle shifters at the back, along with multifunction buttons on the face. The centre stack features the afore-mentioned COMAND screen and it can be controlled either via touch or the console mounted rotary knob. You also get SatNav, Bluetooth audio and video streaming as well as telephone connectivity, automatic climate control, heated and cooled seats, and second row passengers get their own infotainment screens mounted on the back of the front headrests, as well as their own climate control access. The main infotainment screen allows you to customize the car's suspension, steering and engine response to your individual preferences, as well as monitor various engine parameters such as output, oil/water temp etc. The GLE also came with a full panoramic glass roof.

THE DRIVE

Our test car that you see here is the GLE 400 4MATIC; equipped with all-wheel-drive and a twin-turbocharged V6 that puts out a healthy 329 horses to all four corners.

“THE GLE STRIKES THE PERFECT BALANCE BETWEEN SPORTY AND COSSETING - IN KEEPING WITH MOST GLE BUYER'S EXPECTATIONS.”

Out on the road, the GLE feels chunky and connected behind the wheel – the steering feel is crisp and body motions are controlled – impressive because this is an SUV after all. In true Mercedes form, you can potter around all day, with the car doing its job in the background – never intrusive in terms of road or engine noise (unless you opt for the raging AMG version); but plant your foot and the force-fed six comes to life, attacking the horizon with a pace that will amuse the judge as you step into traffic court.

It may have low-profile, road biased tires and big wheels to help in on-road dynamics, but the GLE can tackle that occasional jaunt into the camping ground or that ridiculously high pavement that you need to hop on to park around the Diplomatic area owing to its vehicle-raising function that can add over an inch of ground clearance. The GLE also came with a terrain-select dial, that allows you to choose from various off-road terrain, depending on where you find yourself.

The ride is wonderfully composed in Comfort mode and nary a vibration makes its way into the cabin despite the sporty wheel and tire set-up. Setting it in Sport mode tightens things up a bit – but never so much that the ride becomes jarring or tiresome. The GLE strikes the perfect balance between sporty and cossetting, and I'm pretty sure that this is exactly in keeping with most GLE buyer's expectations.

DRIVING HOME

It's an easy decision really – if you want a Mercedes (who doesn't?), and you want something with decent proportions but the E-class sedan doesn't do it for you, the GLE should suit you just fine. **AM**



DEFINING

PORSCHEPHILES - YOUR ULTIMATE

Yes, there's the Turbo and the super Turbo S, but in terms of raw 911 purity, there's nothing in the Porsche stable that can beat the naturally aspirated goodness of the GT3. We reviewed the 991 GT3 a while ago; the Flat-6's screaming 9,000RPM redline and rear-wheel-steer driven agility left us wondering whether there could possibly be anything more left for Porsche to squeeze out from this platform – short of shoehorning a whole new engine into the rear. ➡



REPORT

IMMEDIATE 911 WEAPON IS HERE!



But this is **Porsche** – a company who made a miracle out of a car with what could best be described as an outboard engine. For these guys, a challenge is a starting point.

WHAT IS THE GT3?

A little bit of history for you guys so that you can appreciate what the GT3 is all about. For starters, the GT3 was manufactured for homologation purposes; i.e. Porsche wanted to go racing in the FIA's (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) GT3 class and rules state that in order to do so, the car being entered should be based off an actual production model. Therefore, when you buy a GT3, what you're actually getting is a car that was designed from the very outset to be a racecar and nothing else.

Beginning with the legendary 1973 Carrera 2.7 RS, the GT3 moniker came into existence in the form of the 996 GT3 in 1999. RS versions based on the 996 platform soon followed, with Porsche Factory Driver and rally ace Walter

Rohrl lapping the Nurburgring in 7 minutes and 56 seconds – a number that would be cut down over the progression of the model series with the 996 GT3 RS, the 997 GT3 and GT3 RS and finally the 991 model series.

WHAT IS THE GT3RS?

RS stands for "RennSport" in German that literally translates to "Racing Sport" in English. The RS is an even more hard-core version of the already race-ready GT3, in an attempt to deliver as close a track-spec car for the road as legally possible. The RS can be ordered without creature comforts such as climate control or even a radio at no extra cost. Additionally, the RS also comes with proper race-bucket seats and pull cord door straps. If you spec the "Club ➡



Sorry chaps - PDK is the lone transmission choice



Sport Chrono package adds this nifty stopwatch-clock combo atop the dash

“THE RS IS AN EVEN MORE HARD-CORE VERSION OF THE ALREADY RACE-READY GT3, IN AN ATTEMPT TO DELIVER AS CLOSE A TRACK-SPEC CAR FOR THE ROAD AS LEGALLY POSSIBLE.”



The helm is shared with the Porsche 918 supercar



Interior comes with race buckets, roll-cage & grippy suede

Sport" package, the RS will feature a roll cage, wiring for a kill switch, an interior-mounted fire extinguisher and a six-point harness.

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

Lean mass is more like it – the car that this story is all about is this here purple 991 GT3 RS.

The numbers go like this: 4.0 liter naturally aspirated Flat-6. Its one and only partner is Porsche's 7-speed PDK or Porsche Doppelkupplungsgetriebe dual clutch gearbox. No manual – and no, you can't order one in manual or bribe Porsche for a manual. You get the paddle shifters – end of story. 500 horses and 338 foot-pounds push the RS from 0-100kph in 3.1 seconds, 0-200kph+ in 10.9 seconds (according to Porsche's

**“500 HORSES AND
338 FOOT-POUNDS
PUSH THE RS FROM
0-100KPH IN 3.1
SECONDS...”**

conservative estimate), through the quarter mile in 11.2 seconds and onwards to a top speed of 310kph plus. Complete horse\$hit. Why? Because independent testing put the comparatively pedestrian GT3 to those numbers. The RS should – for all intents and purposes – be way faster. More like 2.8 seconds to 100kph and through the quarter in 10.9. That's more like it.

The RS rides on bespoke Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires on center-lock wheels. These tires are the widest Porsche has ever fitted to any 911 till date. Fully adjustable suspension is standard and allows you to tweak camber, caster and anti-roll bar settings to set the car up exactly the way you want it. Rear-wheel steering is standard as is an infinitely variable locking limited slip ➡



Yellow brake calipers mean only one thing - Ceramic Brakes



That Stance!



4.0-liter Flat-6 pushes out 500hp



Louvers feature atop the front fenders

Massive GT rear wing akin to the RSR



differential called "PTV Plus" in Porsche-speak, and Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM).

The 'body in white' of the RS is shared with the Turbo, meaning it gets the wider body proportions as well as the intake scoops on the flanks. The RS also gets louvers atop the front fenders and a massive GT rear wing – pretty much like the track-spec RSR. The engine cover and the front boot lid (frunk?) are carbon fiber.

The roof of the RS is made from magnesium and features a 'double-bubble' recess on the inside to comfortably accommodate helmeted driver and passenger. The interior including the steering is covered in grippy suede, and the helm also features a bright yellow top-dead centre / 12 o'clock indicator.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS?

Yes, you can order your RS with a lightweight lithium-ion battery, a front axle-lift system, carbon ceramic brakes and ofcourse the Sport Chrono Package that adds the Porsche Track Precision app, which allows you to use GPS to measure and record performance numbers that are then synced with your smartphone to compare against your fellow Porschephiles. **AM**



“THE ‘BODY IN WHITE’ OF THE RS IS SHARED WITH THE TURBO, MEANING IT GETS THE WIDER BODY PROPORTIONS AS WELL AS THE INTAKE SCOOPS ON THE FLANKS.”



MEET *Kawila*





or those of you who didn't enjoy the car and are not into car stuff and only pick up this magazine for the babes, here's a little Kamillah for you;

To start off tell our readers a bit about yourself. What brings you to Bahrain?

Hey there! My name is Kamillah as you all know and I love posing for you paparazzi next to super cool cars like our Porsche here!

We heard you were into cars – What kind of cars have you driven?

I've driven the lot as they say – Ferraris, Bentleys, Porsches; but my favorite car is a proper BMW M3 and I'm a proud owner of one. Let me add that my M3 is a manual transmission as well (wink).

All right! So you know your stuff! On the subject, what is the fastest that you've ever driven?

My personal best is 140 miles an hour that I hit when I was in the States – driving from New York to Miami.

What would you say would be your dream car?

Definitely the Ferrari F12 TRS.

What do you enjoy doing besides posing with supercars?

I love dancing and I also enjoy skiing and horse back riding.

How did you enjoy our photo shoot and the Porsche GT3RS?

The photo shoot was fantastic! You and your team were really supportive and I enjoyed working with you guys! The Porsche is just gorgeous; every time I hop into the car I just want to fire up that engine and listen to that glorious exhaust note! The steering wheel is so beautiful and feels incredible to hold! This car has got all the right curves in all the right places!

Any parting comments?

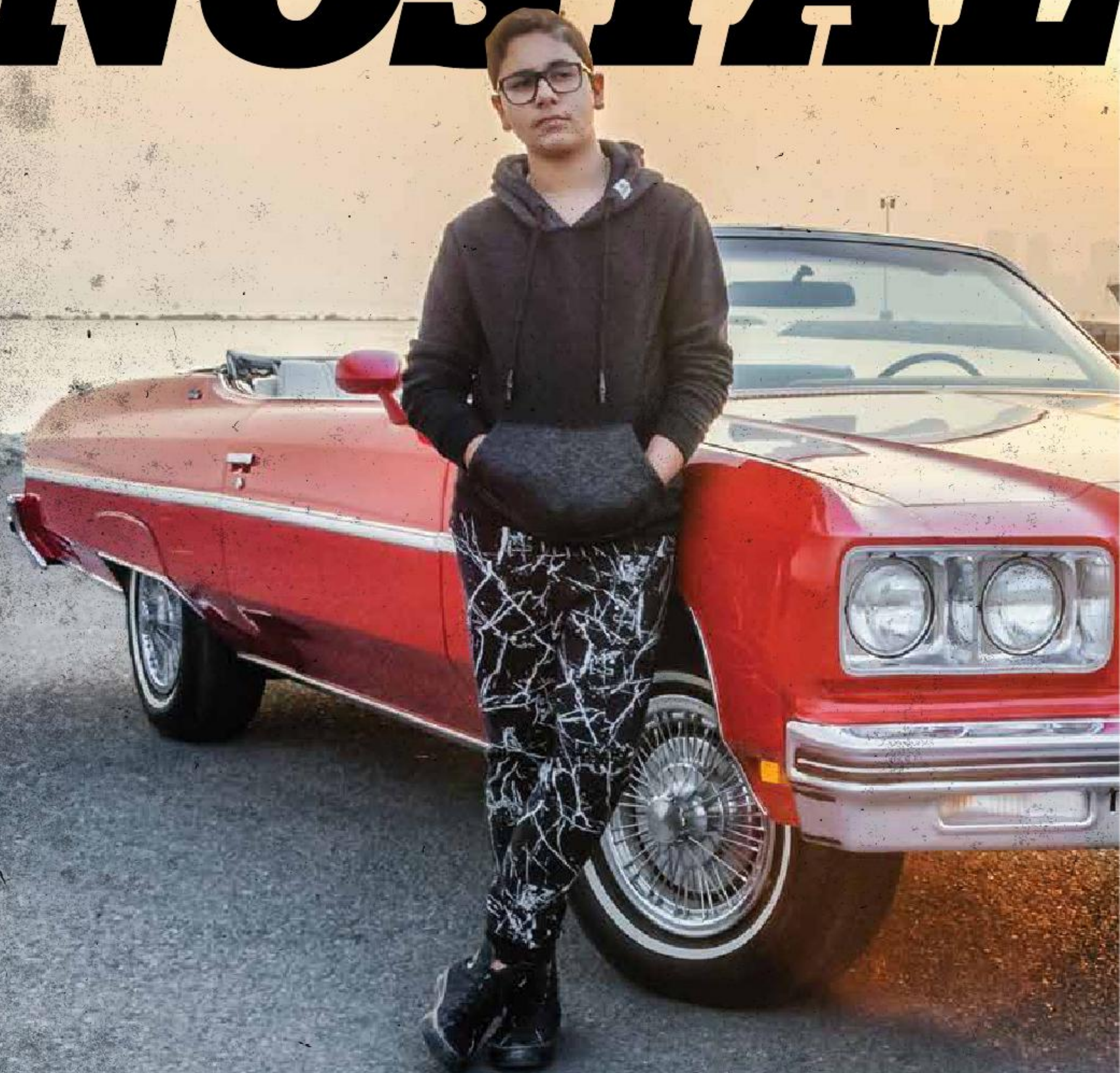
Maybe just one thing; I want to say that I really enjoy my time in Bahrain because it offers so many opportunities. There are so many people and so many events going on and the people are so nice! I feel safe and happy to be here. **AM**



CLASSIC

THIS RARE CHEVY CAPRICE CONVERTIBLE EPITOMIZES

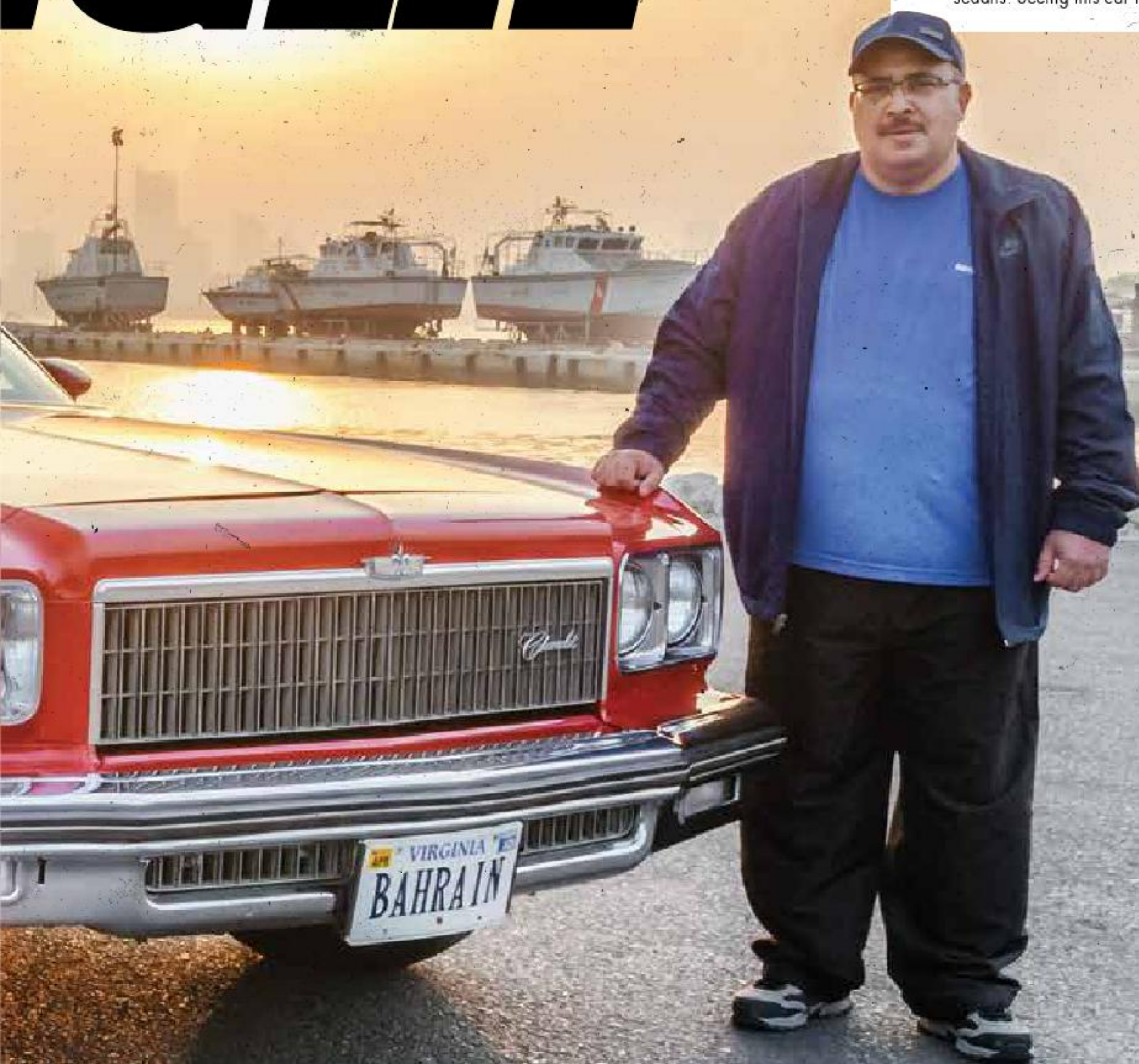
NOSTAL



70'S COOL GIA

No it doesn't ride on ridonkulous big chrome wheels and hydraulic suspension – this here is a lovingly cared for, all-original, numbers matching Caprice drop-top.

You'd be forgiven if you haven't seen the likes of this car around, because this is the only one of its kind in the Kingdom. This is one of the few cars that sport the perfect color combo – red over white with a matching white convertible top. If you love these big Caprices, you'll instantly recognize the egg-crate grille up front, that Chevy carried forward into the popular 80's Caprice sedans. Seeing this car in the metal ➡





400 cubic inches of iron blocked Chevrolet



The interior is a lounge... from the 70's





Elegant simplicity - they don't make em' like they used to!

“The 1975 model year was the last of the Caprice convertibles, and 8,350 of the convertibles were sold.”

is pretty much like seeing a supercar – its long, flowing proportions and quirky styling details such as the four headlamps and raked tail are alien to today's automotive landscape.

What makes this Chevy special is the fact that the 1971-1976 were the biggest and the last of the big-bodied sedans and coupes that the General manufactured before drastically downsizing them in 1977. The 1971-1976 body style is classified as the second generation Chevrolet Caprice and came equipped with a choice of a 350 Small Block V8, a 400 Small or Big Block V8 or the almighty 454 Big Block V8. This particular one that you see came equipped with a 400 cubic inch V8 mated to a three-speed automatic. The powertrain made a paltry 170 odd horses owing to the choking emissions regulations of that era, but still provided dollops of torque – enough to move this two and a half ton behemoth at a relaxed pace. The convertible top is operated electrically and will stow away in a matter of 25 seconds or so. With the top down, there arguably could be no better car to

cruise around town in – especially during these cooler months. During the summer months, the car takes care of you with factory-fitted air-conditioning. The 1975 model year was the last of the Caprice convertibles, and 8,350 of the convertibles were sold.

Anyone who's ever driven one of these land-yachts will tell you – driving them is a surreal experience – a culture shock of sorts; the light-weighted, thin rimmed steering, square-cut dash and gages and the floaty ride along with the burble of the carbureted V8 through the factory dual-exhaust are sensations that everyone needs to experience at least once in their lifetime. That last statement summarizes why we need people like this and their classic car obsession – kids of today grow up with plastic-fantastic cars – disposable pieces of machinery that won't be around in five year's time. Cars like this teach the generation of today as to what cars were like in a simpler time and perhaps more importantly – what cars were like when they were built to last. **#keeptheclassicsalive** **AMM**



ERIK BUELL RACING SOLD



THE tangled tale of Erik Buell Racing may not be at an end even though the firm closed its doors in April last year. Its remnants have been sold for \$2 million and the new buyers hope to find a partner to turn it back into an operating business. Even trying to sell the remains of EBR hasn't been simple. When the company folded, former partners and investors, Indian firm Hero, took over the design consultancy arm of EBR to ensure that the new 250cc sports bike it's been developing with the American firm could continue. The rest – including the manufacturing facility and all the equipment – went to auction no fewer than three times.

SPECIAL EDITION TRIUMPH STREET TRIPLE RX BLACK ANNOUNCED

The standard Triumph Street Triple Rx is to be joined by a special edition Street Triple Rx Black. As suggested by the name, the special edition features a new black paint scheme and revised graphics. Mechanically it will be the same as the standard Rx, which means a 675cc three-cylinder engine producing 105bhp

and 50lbft of torque. The Rx differs from the Street Triple R with the addition of the tail unit from the firm's Daytona 675. The seat cowl, bellypan and fly screen are all standard on the Rx.



BMW BRINGS LASER HEADLIGHT TECHNOLOGY

BMW has announced new technology that it expects to incorporate into production motorcycles. First, the laser headlight design which BMW already incorporates into some of its expensive production automobiles should find its way into motorcycle headlights. Second, a helmet incorporating a heads-up display is also part of the BMW ConnectedRide scheme. BMW has been developing the technology for quite some time, however, and the actual light sent forward is not a laser, although

real lasers are involved in generating the light. BMW also, apparently, intends to develop the system with smart sensors that will prevent blinding oncoming drivers/riders. BMW indicates the technology is currently too expensive for production motorcycles (unlike the six-figure automobiles now using it).



DUCATI ANNOUNCES RECORD YEAR OF SALES



DUCATI has just announced that it sold a record 54,800 bikes in 2015 – 9,683 more than in 2014, an increase of 22%. North America is Ducati's largest market and expansion in the US throughout 2015 resulted in it increasing sales by 14% compared to 2014. In Ducati's homeland, Italian loyalty to arguably its most famous motorcycle marque is sure to have played a part in the massive 53% increase in sales compared to 2014 – making Italy Ducati's second biggest market. UK sales increased by 37% over 2014, with sales in Germany up by 24% and by 22% in France. It's a similar story in Asia, with 2015 sales up 14% over the previous year. Ducati reports that China was a particularly strong market thanks to a 46% hike in sales. Results from the past 12 months follow five years of growth for Ducati that's seen it steadily increase sales and production.

YAMAHA'S XV950 GOES ULTRA WITH MASHIN

Yamaha's ever-growing Yard Built series has gained another son in the shape of this Yamaha XV950 by Swiss builder GS Mashin. The result, the Yard Built XV950 'ULTRA' is a total transformation, bringing a whole new vision and style to the Yard Built line up. Founded three years ago by 'Niners' crew member Tom Mosimann, GS Mashin blends solid, hand craftsmanship with eye

catching new design ideas. Working from a small garage in Bern, Tom works to deliver truly different bikes within functional and technical requirements, meaning everything he builds is fully roadworthy and not just eye candy. The Yard Built XV950 'ULTRA' is no exception, looking radically different from the standard XV950 it's a truly custom machine that follows the Yard Built principles requiring no cutting or welding to the frame to realise the concept.



NEW BELL HELMETS INCORPORATE 360° VIDEO CAMERA



Bell and its sister company Giro (makers of bicycle helmets) announced a line of "smart" helmets incorporating a 360° 4K video camera manufactured by 360fly. The camera is incorporated into the crown of the helmets in order to capture action both in front of and behind the rider (and to the sides, of course). The street motorcycle model is the Bell Star with 360fly (pictured). The helmets should eventually have available three features, including AutoPilot action tracking, Collision Avoidance Alert and Live Streaming. For added value, the 360fly camera can be removed from each helmet and used independently.

BMW DEBUTS NEW G310R

Designed by BMW and built by BMW's Indian partner TVS, the all-new G310R is the bike BMW hope will greatly increase their global market share.

Powered by a 313cc single-cylinder engine producing a claimed 34bhp, the new roadster is direct competition for the KTM 390 Duke, Kawasaki Z300 and new Yamaha MT-03.



KTM GOES FULL FACTORY

KTM have added 'Factory Edition' versions to their four-stroke 2016 SX motocross bikes. The special edition machines feature a host of new parts on the already overhauled 2016 SX range, which was introduced back in June 2015. The two new limited editions mirror those of the 450 SX-F and 250 SX-F machines raced in North America by the Red Bull KTM Factory Racing and Troy Lee Designs Red Bull KTM

teams, respectively, in the Supercross and AMA Motocross series this year. The graphics are identical to those run by Ryan Dungey (450) and Jessy Nelson (250) and are exclusive to the Factory Editions (and not available as PowerParts options). Both bikes boast orange frames compared to the black of the 'standard' SX machines and identical seats as the race teams – right down to the Adidas stripes on the TLD bike. The 250 SX-F also gets an orange plastic subframe/airbox to make it a true replica.



A portrait of Carlos Checa, a man with dark, wavy hair and a light beard, wearing a black t-shirt with a gold 'DUCATI' logo. He is looking slightly to the side with a neutral expression. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor space with some structural elements and warm lights.

CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIALE

SAY HELLO TO SUPERBIKE GOD – CARLOS CHECA

If you are a superbike fan or a motorcycle lover in any capacity, then the name Carlos Checa needs no introduction. Carlos "Charlie" Checa is pretty much a MotoGP God and was World Superbike Champion in 2011. Till date, Charlie is the only Spaniard and 3rd European rider from outside of the United Kingdom after Raymond Roche & Max Biaggi to have done so. We managed to get some seat time with him at the Bahrain Superbike Championship (BSBK) that was held at the Bahrain International Circuit last month.

So tell us Carlos, what brings you to Bahrain?

Well, I work as the Ambassador for Ducati motorcycles; I do a lot of testing for them as well as activities such as racing events. Thus, they informed me that there was the BSBK in Bahrain and asked if I was interested to go, so one thing led to another and here I am!

What is your role here as part of the BSBK?

I add my very own unique ingredient to the championship – especially in terms of training the riders and giving them pointers and advice on their riding techniques. I also did some testing here on the BSBK Ducatis just to get a feel of the track and the bike and to relay advice on setups to the riders.

How do you find the BIC?

One of the most important things in any race is ofcourse to understand the circuit and to memorize the racing lines. I did a few laps of the GP circuit and it goes without saying that the track is designed with Formula One in mind – I don't blame them since that was the circuit's purpose, and this is an advantage owing to the long straight that the riders can experience higher speeds and that will also test their braking judgement and cornering finesse. Overall it is a lot of fun and it has been a fantastic first race.

What do you think of the decision to use 899 Panigales for the race as opposed to the bigger 1199 or even the 1299?

Yes, absolutely – you could use either of the bigger bikes, but inherent for this championship and the track, the 899 strikes the perfect balance between weight and engine capacity. It has excellent power and is very well



balanced – and since all the bikes are equal in terms of modifications, I believe that it will be a true show of who is a better rider. A more experienced rider would be faster on a more powerful bike, whereas an intermediate rider would not find it as easy to maneuver. So with the 899, it sort of evens out the playing field and allows riders from varying skill levels to battle it out.

Last month was the first round of the BSBK. You were there – what did you think could be improved?

It was a fantastic race and a brilliant event, but yes, there are always areas that can be improved upon. I've been racing for many years and to start a full-fledged championship in Bahrain with a motorcycle like the Ducati 899 is an achievement in itself. It is a great starting point and from here on, a lot of things can be polished and improved. But perhaps the most important element would be to take the championship outside the Bahrain track and include regional or even international circuits as well.

All right – let's talk a little bit about yourself; tell us briefly as to how you got started in the world of motorcycles and racing?

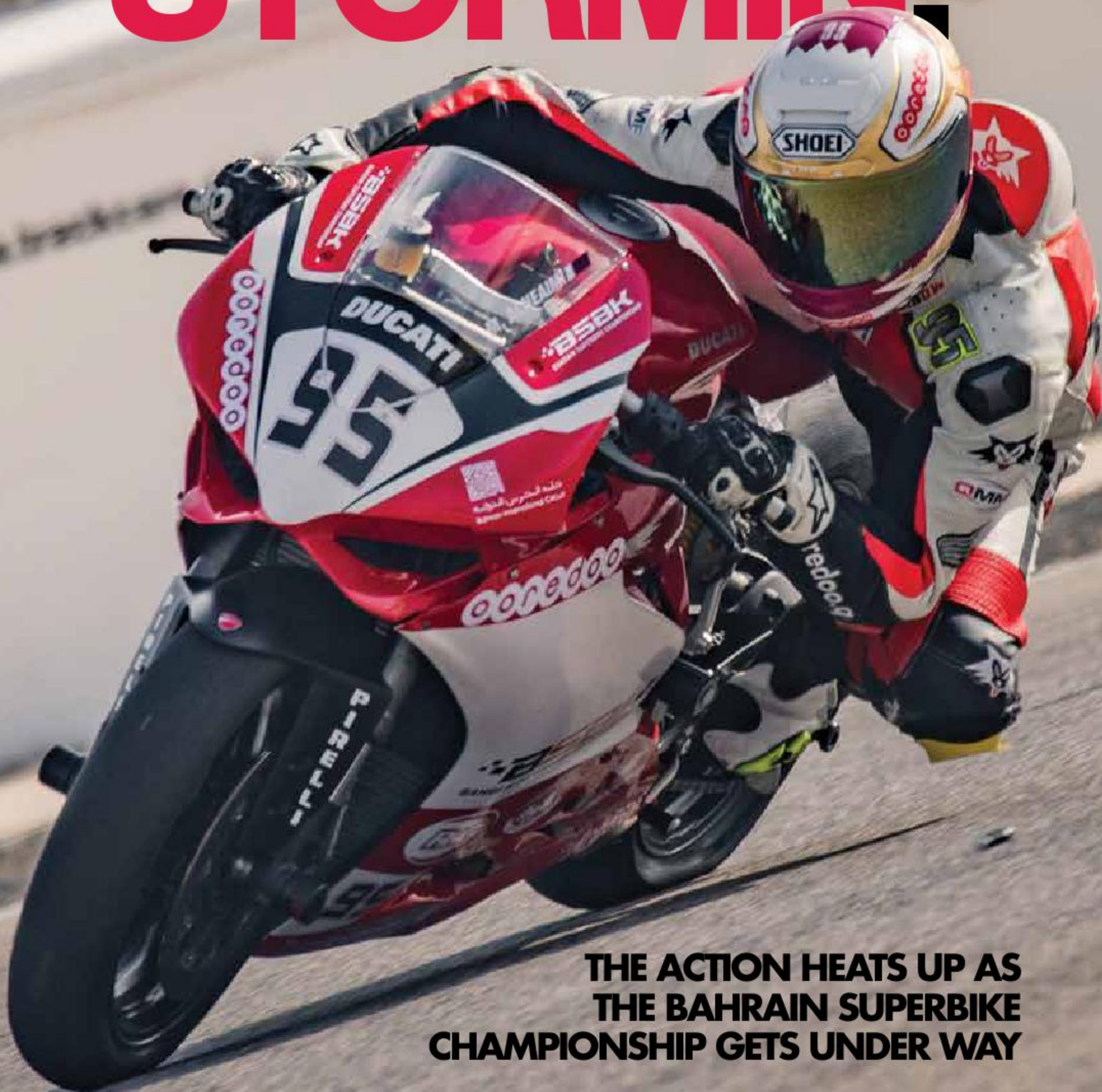
Well, I've always loved speed and when I first got on a motorcycle, I realized that this was the platform that gave me the most excitement and the biggest adrenaline rush so to speak, and from that point on I was hooked. I began to experiment around with various kinds of motorcycles and slowly began to participate in local races, progressing to national championships and to international events – the rest is history as they say!

"I add my very own unique ingredient to the championship – especially in terms of training the riders and giving them pointers and advice on their riding techniques."

There are a lot of people who love motorcycles and love riding, but they never make the transition to the world of professional racing. How did you know that you wanted to race motorbikes for a living?

Well I believe that it has a lot to do with the area and the environment that you are raised in – for me there were always a lot of grass-root level races and events that I would take part in just for fun ever since I was a kid and then it slowly became a passion as the years progressed. I think that if the right environment and the opportunities are present, a lot of kids would take advantage of the same and would be able to discover and develop themselves. **AMA**

SUPERBIKE STORMIN!



**THE ACTION HEATS UP AS
THE BAHRAIN SUPERBIKE
CHAMPIONSHIP GETS UNDER WAY**



Carlos Checa (left) & Saleh



Abdulrahman Almoayed (left) & Husain Al Kooheji

The air was thick with the smell of race gas and burnt rubber as the first round of the Bahrain Superbike championship (BSBK) got underway at the Bahrain International Circuit last month.



WHAT IS THE BSBK?

Well for those of you not in the know, the BSBK is a one-make superbike championship made exclusively in the Kingdom. It is also the first of its kind in the Kingdom and the specialty of the championship is the fact that even novice riders can enter once they pay the race fees and have the requisite racing license obtainable through the Bahrain Motor Federation.

The championship is limited to 15 riders (featured here), who will battle it out for the title of "Bahrain Superbike Champion" over a season of races. The BSBK season covers 12 races over a period of six months and will play out exclusively on the Bahrain International Circuit.

Each race consists of a 40-minute practice session followed by a 20-minute qualifying session. There are two races each round with each race consisting of 11 laps each. ➡





(From Left) Carlos Checa, BIC CE Sh. Salman, Second place winner Wesley Pearce, Round-1 winner Mishal Alneaimi, third place winner Fahad Alsuwaidi & Abdulrahman Almoayed

WHAT ABOUT THE MACHINES?

The BSBK centers around identical Ducati Panigale 899s. Note that every rider gets the exact same bike, with no modifications allowed apart from the race fairings and crash protectors that are already fitted. This evens-out the playing field and riders win or lose through their riding skill alone. What's great about the BSBK is the fact that the race fees also takes care of service and maintenance of the motorcycles, which includes oils, filters, brakes, plugs, and a fresh set of Pirelli race slicks each round. Furthermore, you also get full coverage on all repair and warranty related issues that may arise over the course of the championship from local Ducati distributor - Wheels of Arabia.

RACE REPORT – ROUND 1

Qatari Mishal Alneaimi dominated the opening race, winning by a massive margin of 32.798secs. Wesley Pearce from the UK was second, while Bahrain's Ali Adiby claimed the last podium step 33.119secs behind. Rounding out the top eight were Suriya Raja of India, Sheikh Jassim Al Thani of Qatar, Ian Charles of the UK, Thamer Ibrahim of Saudi Arabia and Rayad Alemadi of Qatar.

In race two, Alneaimi secured another smooth victory in race two to send out a stern warning to his BSBK rivals. He finished the 11-lap event in 13:21.983 – 9.066secs ahead of Pearce and 9.205secs in front of fellow-Qatari Fahad Alsuwaidi. Classified fourth through eighth, respectively, were Adiby, Sheikh Jassim, Raja, Charles and Saudi's Ibrahim Al Sharidah.

The BSBK is the brain-child of Wheels of Arabia Director Abdulrahman Almoayed and Hussain Al Kooheji who is a motorcycle veteran and championship titleholder. The event is also supported and sponsored by SevenFriday, Bahrain Motorcycle Club (BMC), Pro Fiber, Pirelli, R&G and The Westin Bahrain City Centre Hotel.

The second round of the BSBK kicks-off on the 12th of this month. **AM**



Want to see some exciting crashes? Come to the BSBK



BSBK RIDERS PROFILE

These are the 15 heroic souls who have staked life and limb in the pursuit of motorcycle glory. They come from all walks of life and some are based around the GCC. Their experience levels vary but they all have one thing in common - their unyielding passion for riding.



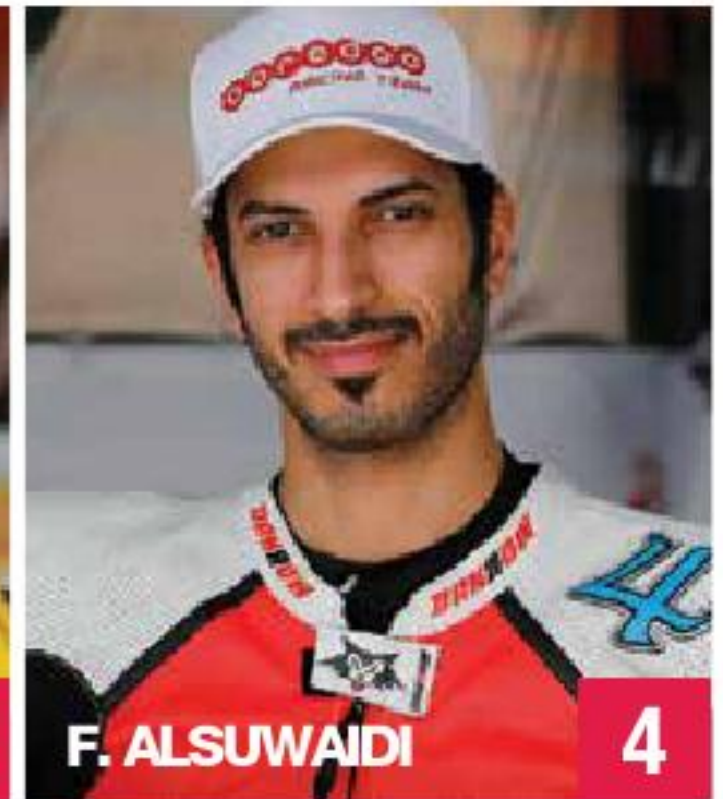
S. RAJA

33



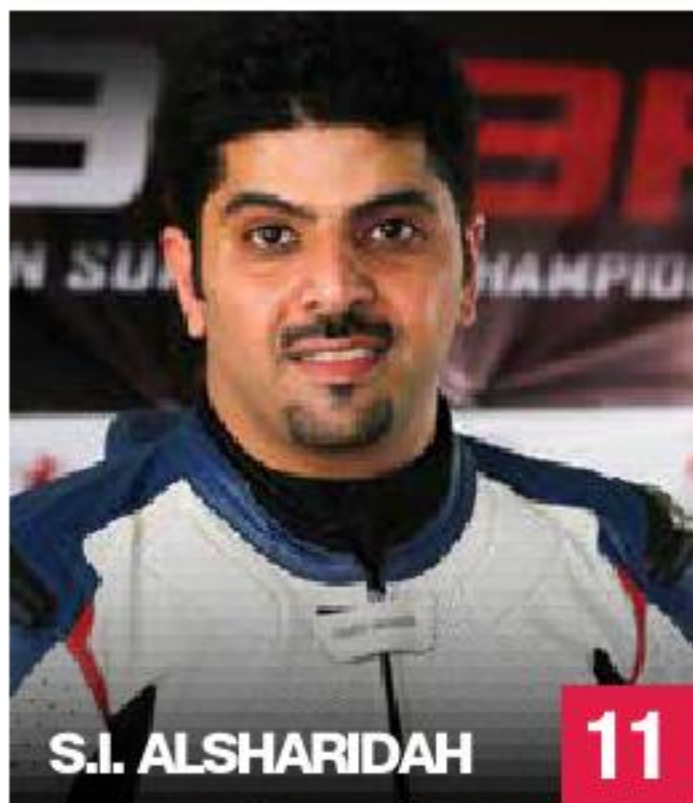
N. HUSSEIN

34



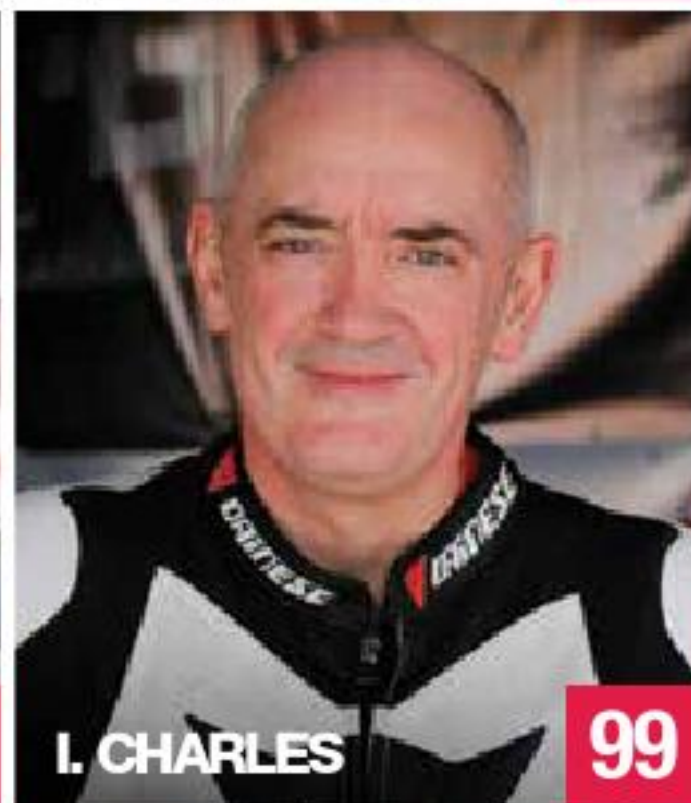
F. ALSUWAIDI

4



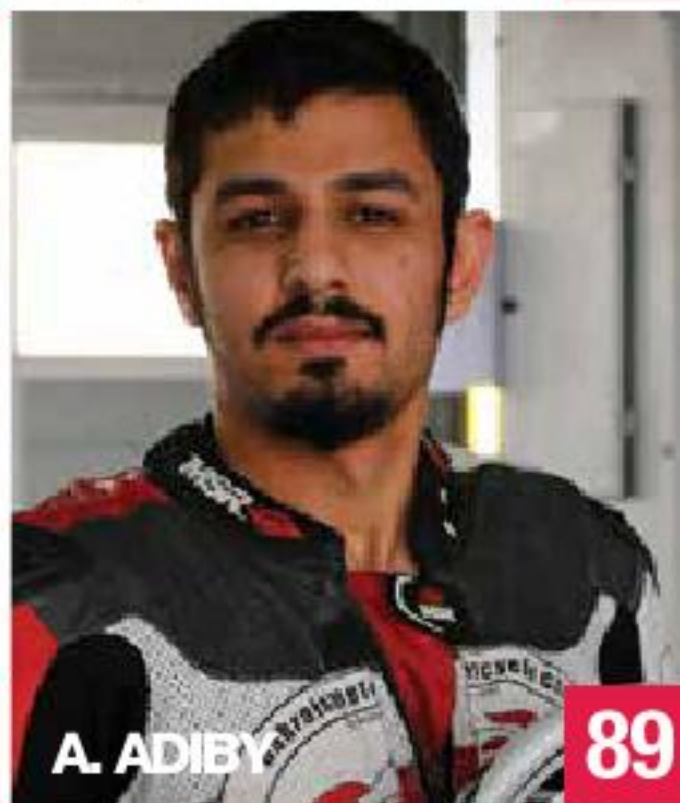
S.I. ALSHARIDAH

11



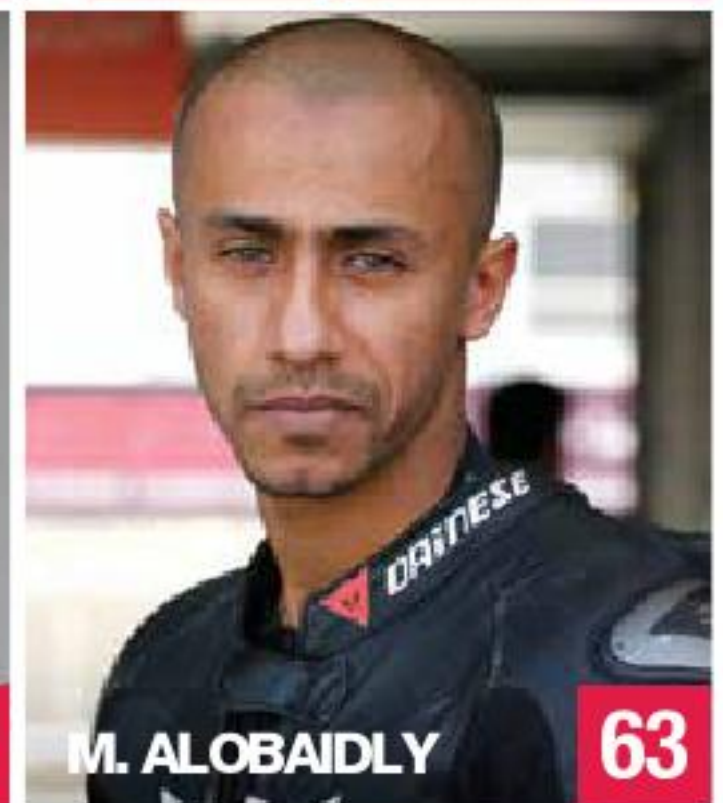
I. CHARLES

99



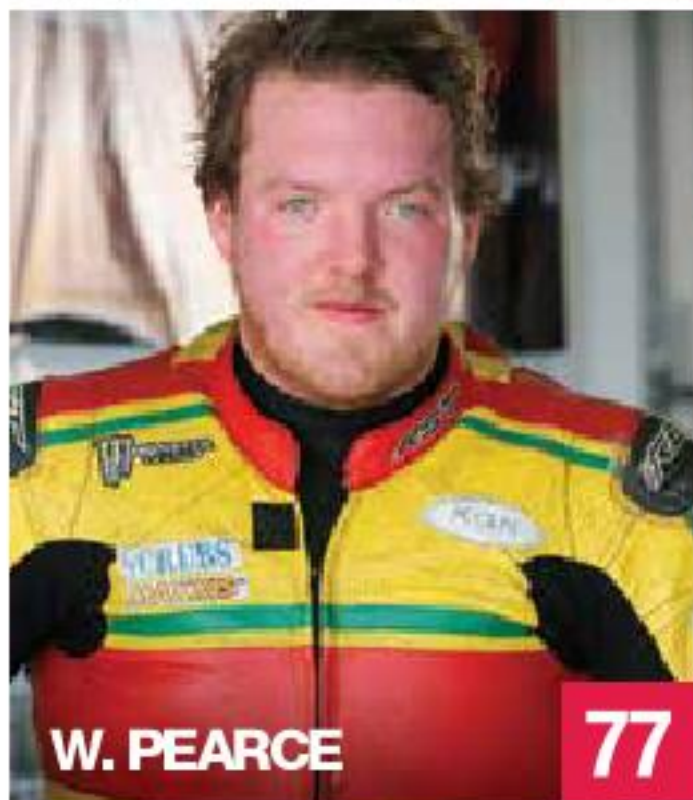
A. ADIBY

89



M. ALOBAILLY

63



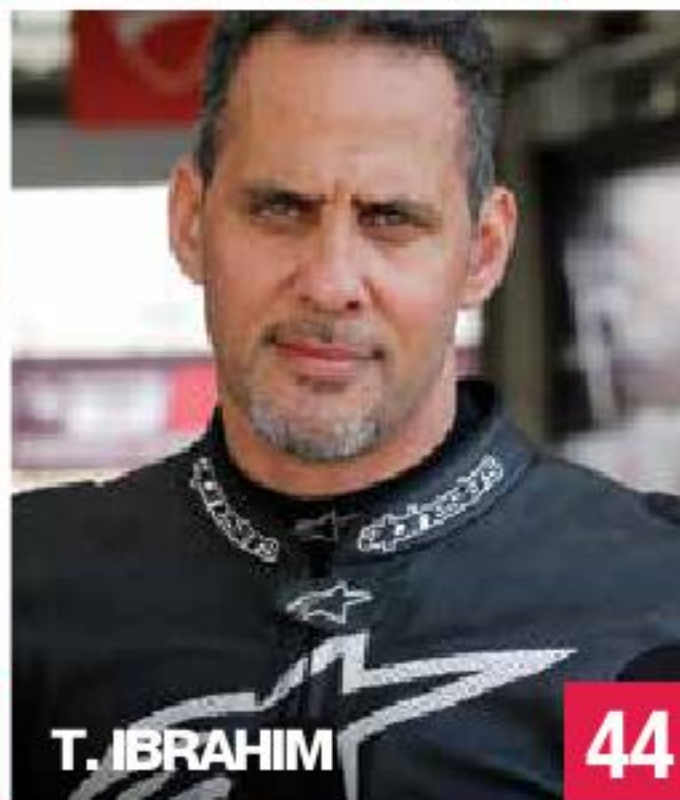
W. PEARCE

77



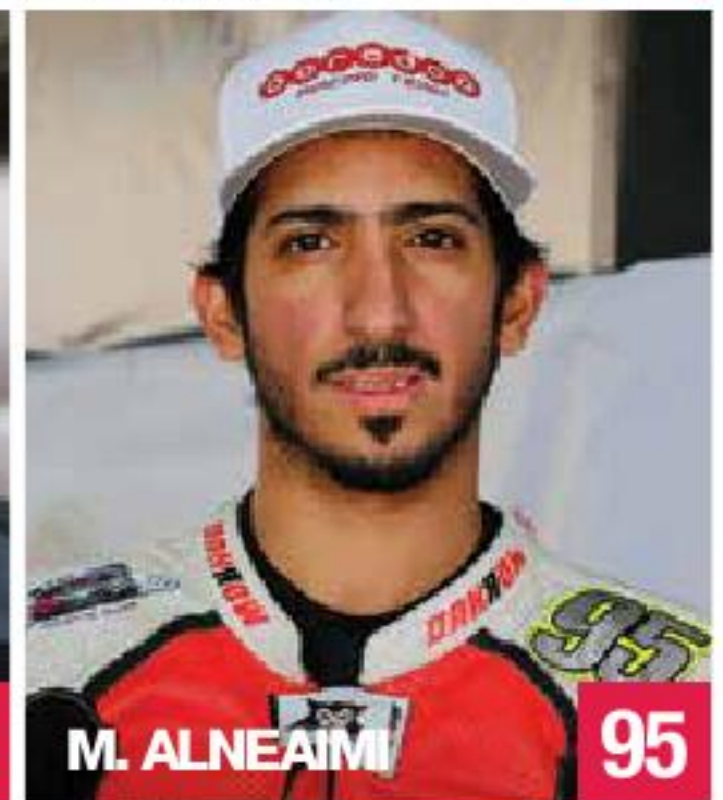
S. ALSALEH

56



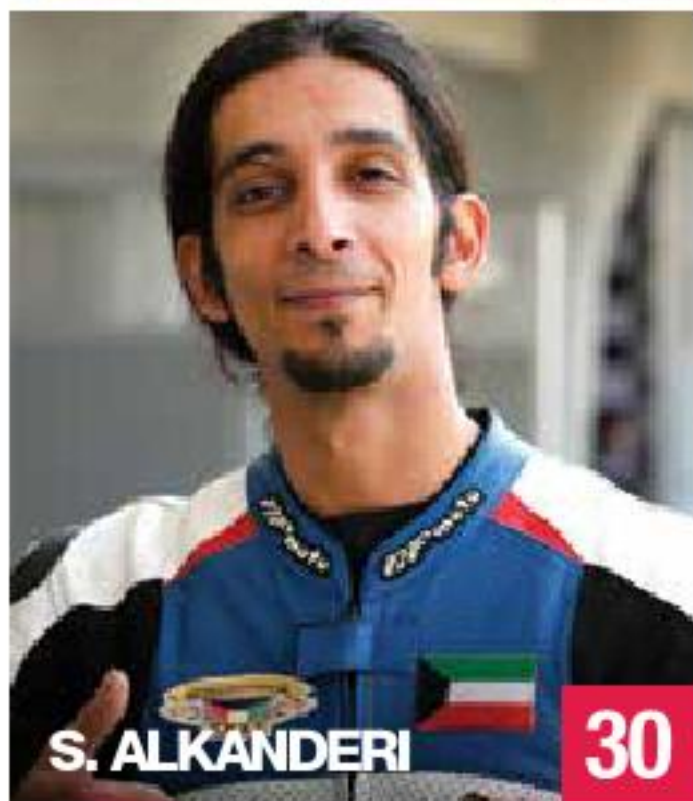
T. IBRAHIM

44



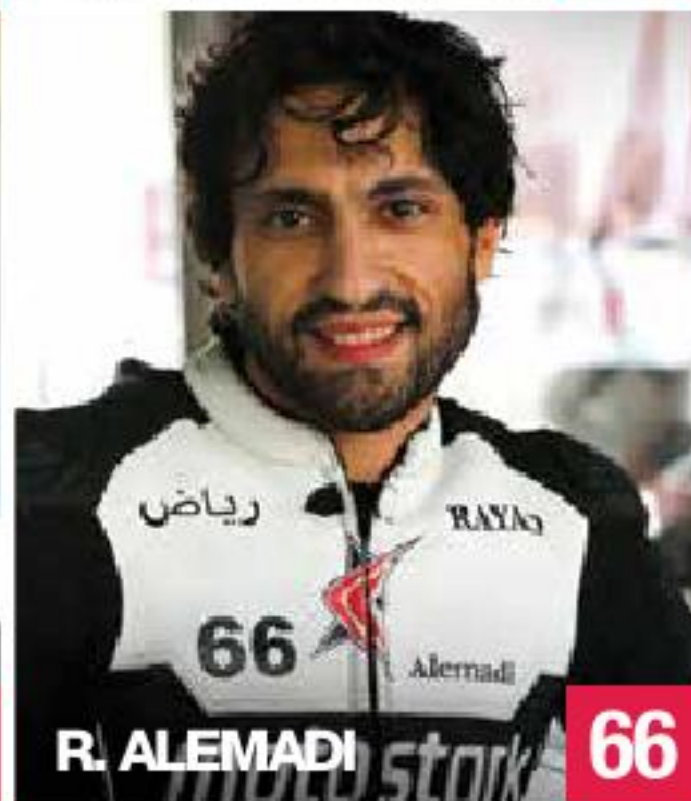
M. ALNEAIMI

95



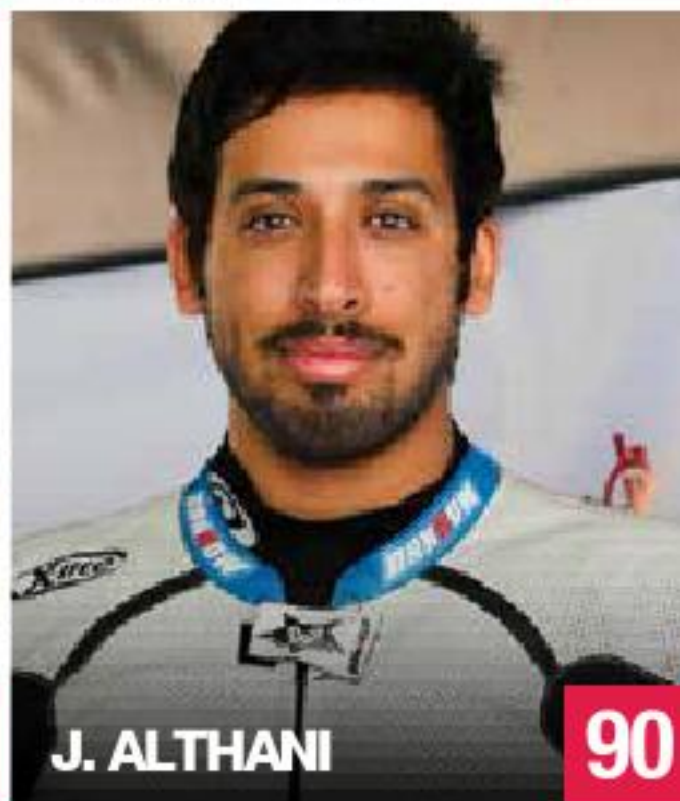
S. ALKANDERI

30



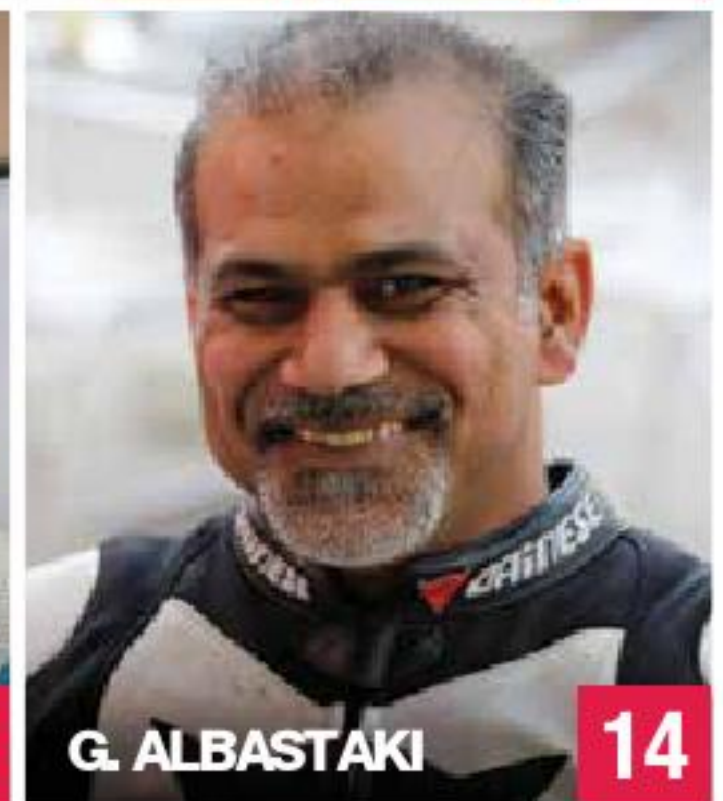
R. ALEMADI

66



J. ALTHANI

90



G. ALBASTAKI

14

TED

**WE COME FACE
TO FACE WITH
THE DARK SIDE**



BIKER



There are those who love bikes and then there are those who **LOVE** bikes; Tarek AlBader is a card-carrying member of the latter. For some, riding motorcycles is a hobby first and a passion second; for Tarek it is a way of life.

So much so that Tarek (nicknamed "Tee") has done everything one can ever think of doing on a motorcycle (pun intended) – which includes going on cross-country trips by himself. Having owned a plethora of bikes over the years, his latest mad creation is this 2008 Suzuki Hayabusa.





"AFTER A WHILE OF ENJOYING ITS STOCK PERFORMANCE, TEE

Now those of you who are familiar with motorcycles will know that the Hayabusa was created to be a speed demon with its car-sized 1,300cc motor, fat fairings and sub 300kph top speed right out of the box. Having experienced all the performance that two wheels can offer, Tee decided to do something radical to show off his obsession with the crotch rocket.

To start off, this bike comes with its own matching truck - a Silverado whose only purpose is to tow this show monster across borders and act as a support vehicle. Tee also got it paint-matched to the bike, in keeping with the theme.

The bike is known as the "Teebuza" - a combination of Tarek's nickname and the bike itself. Catchy moniker that and perhaps the very first personalized bike name that we've come across in a while. Tarek picked up this bike on one of the very first shipments of the 2008 model year to arrive to the region. After a while of enjoying its stock performance, Tee decided that it was time to unleash his inner demon.





So he slapped on an air suspension system to give it that mean stance, complimented by a music system as well as a host of performance upgrades such as a full racing exhaust, headers, Power Commander, racing air filter and a pretty sinister paintjob. The bike also got one of the phatest rear tires in the business and wheels to match. Pretty much everything on the bike is customized and chromed out - from the handle bars to the swing arm, engine parts and the wheels themselves.

Tee takes pride in showing off this menacing two-wheeled creation at most car and bike shows, where it most definitely turns heads and starts proper gearhead controversy. **AM**

DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME TO UNLEASH HIS INNER DEMON."



AM Gear

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Classically styled cashmere-lined leather dress gloves with full ten-finger touchscreen capability. Made of 100% lambskin leather with 100% cashmere lining. Features a raised stitching on back side of each glove and a palm side center vent. Mercedes-Benz logo debossed near wrist on back side of each glove.

Available from: www.mercedes-benz.com
at S.A.A. Haddad & Sons, Bahrain
Price: 120US\$



PORSCHE DESIGN DRIVERS JACKET

Porsche Design Sport by Adidas. This men's Porsche Design Sport by Adidas Driver's Jacket is made of a water-repellent and wind-resistant 2-layer laminated woven jacquard fabric. The sophisticated style is breathable and abrasion-resistant with lightweight PrimaLoft insulation and Porsche Design branded lining.

Available from: Porsche Design Store,
Al Aali Mall
Price: 273US\$

LAMBORGHINI WHEELS WATCH

The Wheels line is composed of quartz chronograph watches inspired by the rims of vintage sports cars. The 3990-03 model is characterized by: Ronda RL 5040 movement; case in polished/satin stainless steel with black-PVD treatment; bezel in polished stainless steel with black-PVD treatment and carbon fiber inserts.

Available from: lamborghini.it
Price: 1,760US\$



PORSCHE DESIGN CHRONOGRAPH TITANIUM LIMITED EDITION

One of the first 2 new timepieces made by Porsche Design. Limited to just 500 pieces worldwide. With Calibre Valjoux 7750 and Porsche Design Icon rotor for uncompromising precision. The robust case is made of glass-bead blasted titanium. COSC certified and with a limited edition number [from 1-500]. Swiss Made.

Available from: Porsche Design Store, Al Aali Mall
Price: 5,400US\$





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A glass lid tops this handsome watch case providing soft protection for your watch collection. Features 15 slots for large and slim watches, a locking clasp and carbon fiber looking woven design. Mercedes-Benz laser-etched on glass.

Available from: accessories.mbusa.com or S.A Al Haddad & Bros, Bahrain
Price: 150US\$



SCUDERIA FERRARI HERITAGE CHRONOGRAPH

Influenced by Ferrari's 1950s and '60s designs, the 'Auto D'epoca' Heritage collection features a range of vintage timepieces with a contemporary touch. The fully-functioning, horizontally-mounted chronograph mechanism is reminiscent of the time-honoured dashboard, while the sweeping second-hand motion mirrors the smooth speed of a Scuderia Ferrari car.

Available from: store.ferrari.com or Ferrari Center Bahrain
Price: 537US\$

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The New Signature Touch Pure Jet Red Gold has solid red-gold features including the volume control keys, power key, screws, pillow trim and back plate rails. Its Grade 5 Titanium sides and back plate are coated in black PVD for the ultimate contrast. It is encased in quilted calf leather sourced from the European Alps and handcrafted in one of the region's oldest tanneries.

Available from: Vertu Boutique, Moda Mall
Price: POA



PORSCHE DESIGN ATHLETIC III SPORT SHOES

Porsche Design Sport by Adidas. These men's Porsche Design Sport Athletic III Mesh shoes combine refined lines with technical sport performance materials. A breathable mesh upper keeps air circulating, while rich leather overlays offer support. Designed with car-inspired vents to target airflow and a thin outsole to heighten pedal sensitivity.

Available from: Porsche Design Store, Al Aali Mall
Price: 162US\$



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SUVS



2010 Honda CRV



2010 Honda CRV, 97,000 KM,
BD 5,200
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2009 Toyota Sequoia



2009 Toyota Sequoia, 119,000 KM,
BD 7,500
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2008 Chevrolet Suburban LTZ



2008 Chevrolet Suburban LTZ, 94,000 KM,
BD 6,300
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2004 Rangerover HSE



2004 Rangerover HSE, 130,000 KM,
BD 6,200
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2007 Chevrolet Trailblazer



2007 Chevrolet Trailblazer, 110,000 KM,
BD 2,500
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2013 Toyota-17 Landcruiser G



2013 Toyota-17 Landcruiser G, 34,000 KM,
BD 11,500
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2007 Chevrolet 16 Tahoe LTZ



2007 Chevrolet 16 Tahoe LTZ, 152,000 KM,
BD 6,200
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2007 GMC Yukon SLT



2007 GMC Yukon SLT, 100,000 KM,
BD 6,700
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2006 Nissan Murano



2006 Nissan Murano, 134,000 KM,
BD 2,700
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2008 Ford Explorer



2008 Ford Explorer, 92,000 KM,
BD 3,900
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2000 Infiniti QX



2000 Infiniti QX, 150,000 KM,
BD 19,000
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2009 Honda CRV



2009 Honda CRV, 75,000 KM,
BD 4,800
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2012 Lexus LX-570



2012 Lexus LX-570, 10,5000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2015 Chevrolet TAHOE



2015 Chevrolet TAHOE, 6,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Cadillac Escalade



2012 Cadillac Escalade, 56,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2010 Mitsubishi Pajero



2010 Mitsubishi Pajero, 68,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Nissan X- Trail



2012 Nissan X- Trail, 89,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2009 Toyota Sequoia



2009 Toyota Sequoia, 103,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Nissan Qushqai



2012 Nissan Qushqai, 79,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2013 Honda Pilot



2013 Honda Pilot, 95,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Toyota Prado-Sport TXL



2012 Toyota Prado-Sport TXL, 69,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2008 Land rover Range Rover



2008 Land rover Range Rover, 17,7000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee



2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee, 53,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2011 Honda Pilot



2011 Honda Pilot, 31,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2011 toyota Prado



2011 toyota Prado, 79,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2008 Jeep-Sahara Wrangler



2008 Jeep-Sahara Wrangler, 88,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2013 Nissan X-Trail



2013 Nissan X-Trail, 48,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2011 Toyota Sequoia



2011 Toyota Sequoia, 10,9000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2014 Porsche Cayenne



2014 Porsche Cayenne,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Nissan Armada



2012 Nissan Armada, 10,4000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2013 Mazda CX-9



2013 Mazda CX-9, 82,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2007 Land rover Range rover



2007 Land rover Range rover, 27,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2004 Mitsubishi Outlander



2004 Mitsubishi Outlander, 242,000 KM,
Contact: 39614004, 17403477

2007 Ford Explorer



2007 Ford Explorer, 174,000 KM,
Contact: 39614004, 17403477

2009 Ford Expedition



2009 Ford Expedition, 171, 000 KM,
Contact: 39614004, 17403477

2008 Ford Expedition



2008 Ford Expedition, 200,000 KM,
Contact: 39614004, 17403477

2006 Land rover range rovar



2006 Land rover range rovar, 86,000 KM,
Contact: 33337133, 34121280, 77144404

2015 Porsche Cayenne



2015 Porsche Cayenne, 19,000 KM,
Contact: 33337133, 34121280, 77144404

2013 Honda Odyssey



2013 Honda Odyssey, 55,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2008 Mazda CX-9



2008 Mazda CX-9, 82,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2013 Nissan Z-370



2013 Nissan Z-370, 40,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2010 Benz SLK 300



2010 Benz SLK 300, 26,000 KM,
Contact: 33337133, 34121280, 77144404

2009 Porsche Cayman



2009 Porsche Cayman, 63,000 KM,
Contact: 33337133, 34121280, 77144404

2005 Porsche Cayenne



2005 Porsche Cayenne, 59,000 KM,
Contact: 33337133, 34121280, 77144404

2013 lamborghini gallardo



2013 lamborghini gallardo, 12,000 KM,
Contact: 33337133, 34121280, 77144404

SPORTS CARS

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2014 Mini Cooper-S



2014 Mini Cooper-S, 13,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2014 Dodge Challenger



2014 Dodge Challenger, 26,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2014 Benz SLK 200



2014 Benz SLK 200, 22,000 KM,
Contact: 33337133, 34121280, 77144404

2015 Mini Cooper



2015 Mini Cooper, 0 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2010 Chevrolet Camaro V6



2010 Chevrolet Camaro V6, 59,000 KM,
BD 6,800
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

SEDANS CARS & LUXURY CARS

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2012 Toyota Avalon



2012 Toyota Avalon, 74,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2016 Honda City



2016 Honda City, 0 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2013 Lexus ES- 350



2013 Lexus ES- 350, 75,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Mercedes S-350



2012 Mercedes S-350, 47,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Toyota Camry



2012 Toyota Camry, 73,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2006 Mercedes E-350



2006 Mercedes E-350, 70,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2015 Honda Accord



2015 Honda Accord, 8,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Nissan Altima



2012 Nissan Altima, 75,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Mazda 3



2012 Mazda 3, 15,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Toyota camry



2012 Toyota camry, 10,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2008 Honda Accord V6



2008 Honda Accord V6, 120,000 KM,
BD 3,800
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2008 Chevorlet Lumina LTZ



2008 Chevorlet Lumina LTZ, 134,000 KM,
BD 3,200
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2012 Nissan Sunny



2012 Nissan Sunny, 70,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Toyota Corolla



2012 Toyota Corolla, 10,3000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2008 Mitsubishi Lancer 2.0



2008 Mitsubishi Lancer 2.0, 143,000 KM,
BD 2,300
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2013 toyota Corolla



2013 Toyota Corolla 123,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2010 Nissan Qashqai



2010 Nissan Qashqai, 78,000 KM,
BD 3,800
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2011 Mazda CX7



2011 Mazda CX7, 74,000 KM,
BD 5,300
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2009 BMW 740LI



2009 BMW 740LI, 58,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Toyota Avalon / Limited



2012 Toyota Avalon / Limited, 100,000 KM,
BD 9,000
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2013Toyota Camry



2013Toyota Camry, 28,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 175544770

2012 Nissan Altima



2012 Nissan Altima, 78,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2008 Nissan 8 Altima 2.5



2008 Nissan 8 Altima 2.5, 120,000 KM,
BD 2,500
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2010 Mercedes S-350



2010 Mercedes S-350, 60,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Nissan Sunny



2012 Nissan Sunny, 85,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

SEDANS CARS & LUXURY CARS

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2006 Mercedes SLK-200



2006 Mercedes SLK-200, 16,3000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2012 Lexus LS- 460



2012 Lexus LS- 460, 10,1000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2011 Nissan Tiida



2011 Nissan Tiida, 97,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2007 Mercury Marquis LS



2007 Mercury Marquis LS, 140,000 KM,
Contact: 39614004, 17403477

2008 Honda Accord Coupe



2008 Honda Accord Coupe
Contact: 39997277

2012 Toyota Corolla



2012 Toyota Corolla, 97,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2007 Ford Explorer



2007 Ford Explorer, 178,000 KM,
Contact: 39614004, 17403477

2007 Maserati Quattroporte



2007 Maserati Quattroporte,
56,000 KM, BD 5,500
Contact: 38898903, 17552233

2001 Lexus LS 430



2001 Lexus LS 430, 162,000 KM,
Contact: 39614004, 17403477

2008 Honda Accord



2008 Honda Accord, 155,000 KM
BD 4,200
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2009 BMW 320



2009 BMW 320, 48,000 KM,
BD 6,500
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2004 BMW 530



2004 BMW 530, 133,00 KM,
BD 3600
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2008 Nissan 7 Altima 2.5



2008 Nissan 7 Altima 2.5, 180,000 KM,
BD 2,700
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2007 Lexus GS 420



2007 Lexus GS 430, 169,000 KM,
BD 6,700
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2006 Lexus GS 430



2006 Lexus GS 430, 169,000 KM,
BD 6,000
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2009 BMW 320



2008 Toyota CAMRY, 100,000 KM,
BD 3,500
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2010 Infiniti G37



2010 Infiniti G37, 159,000 KM,
BD 7,300
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2009 Honda CIVIC 320



2009 Honda CIVIC 320, 167,000 KM,
BD 3,000
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2010 Honda Accord



2010 Honda Accord, 160,000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

2002 Lexus LS430



2002 Lexus LS430, 188,000 KM,
BD 3,700
Contact: 39992882, 17000870

2006 Grand Marquis



2006 Grand Marquis,
BD 2,900
Contact: 39470811

2010 Mitsubishi Lancer



2010 Mitsubishi Lancer, 45,000 KM,
BD 3,400
Contact: 33355955, 17000570

2005 Lexus LS430



2005 Lexus LS430, 200,000 KM,
Contact: 39614004, 17403477

2007 Dodge Charger



2007 Dodge Charger, 200,000 KM,
BD 3,800
Contact: 39423332, 17423332

2002 Lexus LS 430



2002 Lexus LS 430, 145,000 KM,
Contact: 39614004, 17403477

OTHER CRAFTS

AM TRADER

2013 Nissan URVAN



2013 Nissan URVAN, 193,000 KM,
Contact: 39614004, 17403477

2013 Toyota Hiace-Bus



2013 Toyota Hiace-Bus, 14,2000 KM,
Contact: 36662267, 17554477

1993 JLG Scissor Lift 43 Feet



1993 JLG Scissor Lift 43 Feet
BD 4,300
Contact: 39997277

1993 JLG Scissor Lift 35 Feet



1993 JLG Scissor Lift 35 Feet
BD 3,000
Contact: 39997277

2015 Ducati Diavel dark



2015 Ducati Diavel dark, 47,81 KM,
BD 7,000
Contact: 77050333

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7029	11160	144499	77332	46900	440606
69899	48282	433342	25900	27474	264446
55453	15611	440700	55453	97949	333035
33493	29232	395553	10860	41116	388311
90270	112255	132999	90340	225511	55003
445577	335577	522265	446677	111126	248284
444496	111162	333048	509509	440009	333087
223355	499222	444058	463666	447666	472727
322666	338884	333711	400086	333552	400038
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- Shining Spray Wax
- Full Exterior Vehicle Polishing
- Rims Polishing
- Head Light Restoration

Interior Service

- Interior Vacuuming Floor & Seats
- Plastic & Vinyl Clean & Polishing
- Cleaning & Sanitizing AC Vents
- Car Seats & Roof Steam Cleaning
- Interior Mats Steam Cleaning
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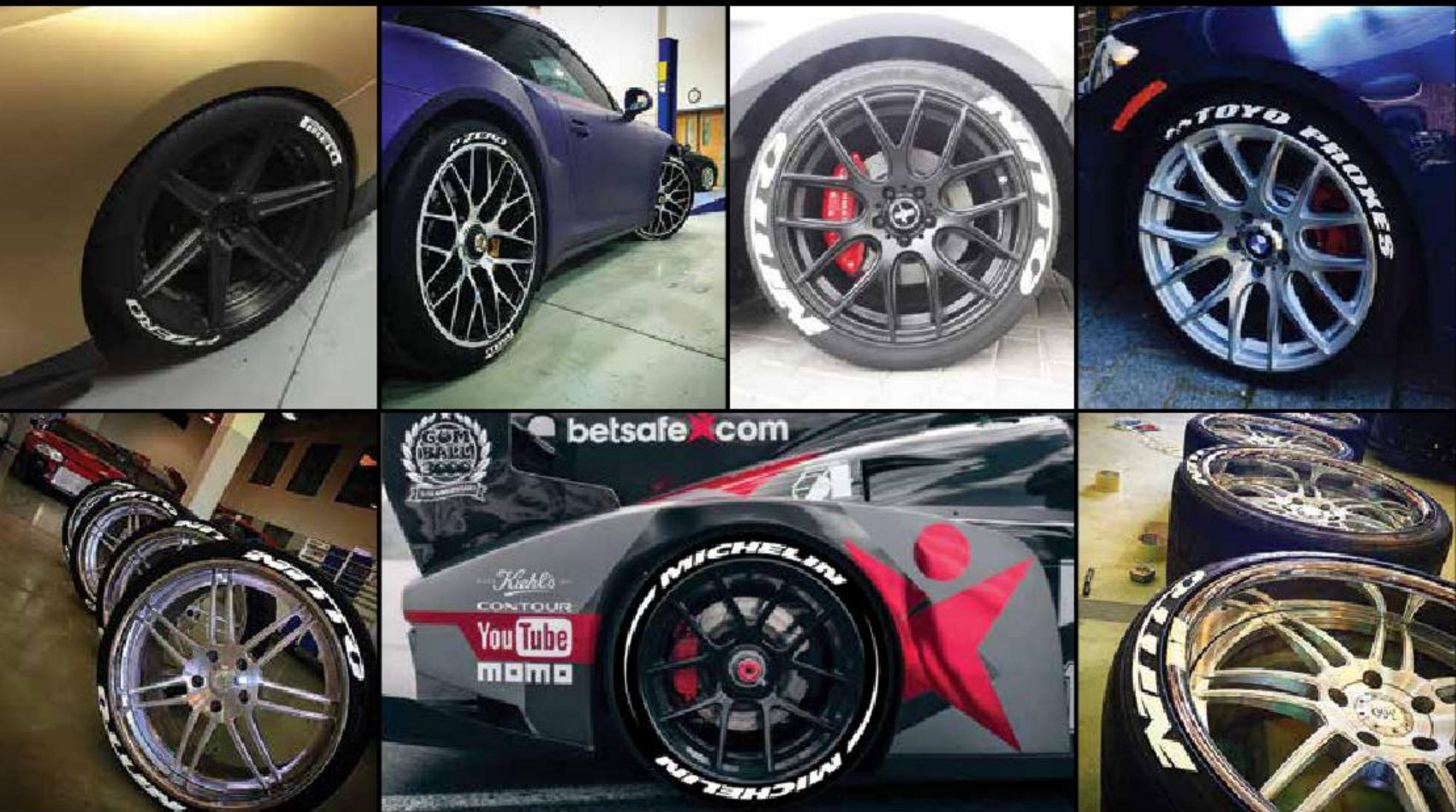
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